

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES  
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

**March 26, 2013 - 2:00pm  
Hill Hall 300**

**ATTENDEES:** John Spear (CEE), Joel Bach (ME), Bernard Bialecki (AMS), Lincoln Carr (PH), Tracy Gardner (CBE), Dan Knauss (CH), Candy Sulzbach (CEE), Chet Van Tyne (MT), Ray Zhang (CEE)

**APOLOGIES:** Thomas Monecke (GE), Ken Osgood (McBride), Ivar Reimanis (MT), Kim Williams (CH)

**GUESTS:** Tom Boyd (Graduate Studies), Mark Taylor (GSA), Judy Schoonmaker (CBE)

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**Administration / Guest Updates:**

Boyd gave an update on the Faculty Handbook Committee. There has been extended discussion regarding the incorporation of Teaching Faculty in section 8.2, promotion and tenure. Incorporation of the committee-approved language, at this point, will make the section unreadable. Because of the deadline for committee decisions, the Provost is recommending Teaching Faculty promotion wait until next term and that language covering this topic be entered into the Procedures Manual until then. The committee may look at creating a new section 8.3 that will be just for Teaching Faculty promotion.

There will be a full 30 day period for campus input into Faculty Handbook proposed changes. It was asked if leaving Teaching Faculty out of the Handbook creates any liability for CSM. Because of the current ad hoc process, there is already liability. Van Tyne reported that a draft for section 8.2 was circulated and commented on, but not fully discussed at the meeting. The Senate wants a uniform system for faculty promotion.

There was discussion regarding the efficiency of the Faculty Handbook Committee. The Senate does not have control over structure, membership, or leadership of the committee. Gardner commented that the Teaching Faculty promotion should not be rushed. Because Research and Teaching Faculty policies should be addressed at the same time, it may be best that the Teaching Faculty promotion issue be postponed.

There is still an issue regarding section 12 of the Faculty Handbook. The committee has been discussing moving this section to the web. If sections are moved out of the Handbook, it will no longer be part of the faculty contract. The Procedures Manual is not vetted by faculty, no comment period, changes on the fly. Senate unanimously agrees that section 12 should not be removed.

**BELS to Studio Biology Proposal:**

Senate discussed this issue at its meeting last Tuesday. Senate was asked to review the report and proposal for vote today. The proposal is to replace the Distributed Science required core course BELS101 with Studio Biology 110. Discussion took place within MME. There was strong support for the proposal, but issues with the details. One faculty member commented that the syllabus for Studio Biology is too ambitious. For students who are present in their first year, the BELS minor will still be available with the

same requirements and restrictions as before. Van Tyne asked how to advise students who have taken BELS 101 and are planning to take BELS 301 in the fall. Gardner replied that 301 and 311 will be offered in the summer for one last time and that three local universities offer a BIO I course that will be accepted as replacement for those who cannot take the Mines summer course. This information needs to be spread across campus. CBE may be the best department to disseminate. Transfer students are also being addressed.

Spear asked if resources are in place to support the studio course. TAs are committed. Moving this forward will promote distribution of resources to departments who have minor tracks. There was concern that there is conflict with the leadership of BELS not being informed. The new course is listed as BIOL 110, although this may change. Studio Biology will include a wet lab. Chemistry cautioned that there is a potential for failure with the wet lab. Schoonmaker remarked on the safety level difference between the types of courses. She has worked carefully to choose safe labs. Spear asked if there will be an overall coordinator for Studio Biology. Schoonmaker said that there will be 5 graduate TAs and that one of them will be given responsibility. She is also working with Sarah Ryan. This is similar to the Studio Physics model.

*Senate voted unanimously in favor of the replacement of BELS 101 with Studio Biology 110.*

#### **Awarding of Posthumous Degrees:**

This issue was discussed at the last Senate meeting. A letter was sent to the family yesterday morning on behalf of the Senate. Spear could find no record in the past Senate minutes that the issue had ever been considered. The letter was copied to Ramona Graves, Tom Boyd, John Humphrey, and Terry Parker. An email chain that came out of the Foundation was identified as the source of the misinformation. Although the Foundation should be made aware of the miscommunication, it should be run past the administration first. Spear will call Brian Winkelbauer at the Foundation.

#### **Board of Trustees Meeting:**

The Board and Senate would like to start a regular series of meetings. The will be good as the strategic planning moves forward. Senate discussed having another meeting in the Fall in order to build on positive momentum. There is a preference for meeting exclusively with the Board. The Board may present next time. Bach suggested meeting twice per semester, one at which the Senate presents and one at which the Board presents. Senate would like to have the Board present campus lectures, starting in fall.

#### **CSM Graduate Admissions Process:**

Geology is concerned about the Graduate Office's online submission process; feels that it is inefficient. Senate feels that there has been a huge improvement over prior years, but still needs refining. This is likely a staffing issue. This year, the Graduate office is accepting a mix of paper and electronic documentation. The application process may be better expedited if it were made completely electronic. Direct application to departments was also suggested. A formal complaint was submitted earlier in the year from David Wood. The Graduate Office was responsive and hired additional staff.

#### **CSM Minors:**

There is currently a proposal in Undergraduate Council to redefine minors. One part of the proposal is that 3 courses not be required for the degree. Currently, a minor consists of 18 credit hours, 9 of which must not be required for the degree. A subcommittee formed to look at minors as a whole and come back with suggestions. The subcommittee concluded that there are two modes of thought about minors;

a minor represents a body of knowledge and a minor represents something in addition to the degree. One group felt that students who meet the requirements should get a minor, regardless of their degree. The other felt that a certain number of credit hours in addition to the degree requirements should be needed. These credits could be free electives. Technical electives couldn't count for both. The subcommittee submitted that any department proposing a minor program identifies their requirements. A degree granting department that wants to require additional restrictions has the opportunity to go to Undergraduate Council for approval. The subcommittee based their recommendation on feedback from departments and Deans. The Deans, Registrar, and Associate Provost then came up with a counter-proposal. Undergraduate Council has not yet voted. Part of the current system that needs to be addressed is that students who qualify for a minor, but who do not submit the form, will not get it. Under the proposal, minors would become part of the degree audit system.

**CSM Strategic Planning Initiative:**

Parker and Scoggins sent emails encouraging faculty to get involved in the strategic planning process. Senate needs to consider what its level of engagement in the process will be. The 2004 strategic plan document was primarily about financial direction. It is unclear what the avenue for feedback will be in the upcoming forums. It is felt that the strategy will be stronger if it is built from the faculty up. This may be an opportunity to gather and share faculty input with the administration. Van Tyne proposed that the past committee be a starting point for the framework of future discussion. Senate will put forward a memo indicating its interest in becoming an active part of the strategic planning.

**CSM Spring '13 Commencement:**

The Senate needs to suggest name readers for May's commencement ceremony. Kim Williams and Candy Sulzbach have volunteered. Mark Lusk and Bob Knecht will be approached as additional readers.

**USG Resolution:**

USG has proposed a resolution asking for faculty to return grades within two weeks. This indicates that enough faculty are not getting back grades in time for students to prepare for exams. Senate feels this is a direct result of insufficient TA support. Statics courses have not had instructors grade exams for many years, they are instead graded by a graduate TA. This issue was brought up with Wendy Harrison when she was the Associate Provost, but there was no action taken. Spear to draft a memo from Senate for consideration at the next meeting.

**Distinguished Lecturer:**

Jim McNeil will be speaking tomorrow afternoon at 4:00pm.

**Freshmen Connections:**

Gardner asked that the Senate promote the upcoming "Freshmen Connections" event, next Monday 6-8:00pm in the Student Center ballrooms. Registration is available online.

*Senate convened executive session.*