

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 27, 2012 - 2:00pm
Hill Hall 300

ATTENDEES: Braun, Davis, Dean, Gardner, Greivel, Miller, Van Tyne, Williams

APOLOGIES: Reimanis (sent proxy), Spear, Scales, Steele (sent proxy), Zhang

GUESTS: Tom Boyd, Dean of Graduate Studies

Dean, Senate President, called the meeting to order. This is a special meeting of the Faculty Senate called to review the proposed changes to the MIPER program.

Boyd summarized Grad Council discussion and history of the proposal. Grad Council passed the current MIPER proposal with very little discussion. However, the council discussed, at length, the previous STEP proposal from LAIS last spring. That proposal was to keep MIPER as is and start a new program - Masters in Energy Policy and Society (MEPS). It was approved by the Grad Council and the Faculty Senate, but not the President. At that time, it was suggested by the President to E. Davis to create another track in the existing MIPER program. The proposal currently on the table is a response to the path recommended by the administration.

Boyd pointed out relevant features to the current proposal. One is that the name change of the degree program, even with the same acronym, means that the proposal must go to CCHE for approval. The current requirements for the MIPER program include 15 credit hours of core classes and 15 credit hours of electives. The proposal keeps the core requirements essentially as they are. For electives, LAIS has defined an IPER track (which includes the Area Studies, Security Studies, and Global Perspectives electives) and a STEP track (which includes the Public Policy, and Science, Technology and Society electives). It appears that the intent is to subdivide categories that are already provided, and in this sense is consistent with creating a single program with multiple tracks.

Davis expressed the viewpoint that changing a Masters in "Political Economy" to a Masters in "Policy" changes the peer group of schools and the focus of students coming in. Thus an important issue is the number of faculty in LAIS that have substantial training in policy.

There are between 20-30 graduate students in the MIPER program at present. Several senators raised the question as to allocation of resources; why are there 27 graduate courses for so few students? Some courses are cross-listed with undergraduate courses. Grad Council has asked for specific information as to the differences between the undergrad and grad courses. Comparisons to programs at similar universities were included in the proposal.

Greivel suggested attaching a memo illustrating the Senate's concerns to any approval to move this item forward. Providing appropriate input to the Provost is perhaps more important than whether the Senate approves the program or not. It was felt that a conditional vote would not be helpful to LAIS.

A motion to approve the proposal as present was made and seconded. The motion was passed: 8 in favor (including 2 proxies), 2 opposed.

Dean will draft a memo to the provost outlining the following points discussed by the Senate, that he will then circulate to the senators for their approval before forwarding to the Provost.

- The name does not describe the program accurately. The IPER track name doesn't seem to represent the intent of the program.
- The quantitative level of the course study is not sufficiently high. Now that students entering the program are required to have a BS degree, there might be more opportunity for quantitative content.
- Larger core, fewer options.

The next Senate meeting will take place on April 10, 2012 @ 2:00pm in Hill Hall room 300.

Approved,

Anthony Dean,
Faculty Senate President

Approved,

Tracy Gardner
Faculty Senate Secretary

Recorded,

Jennifer P.
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary