

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES  
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

**August 28, 2012 - 2:00pm  
Hill Hall 300**

**ATTENDEES:** Spear, Carr, Bach, Bialecki, Gardner, Reimanis, Sulzbach, Van Tyne, Williams

**APOLOGIES:** Meineke, Zhang

**GUESTS:** Alyssa Brown, Student Government Representative

Administration/guest updates:

Welcome to Alyssa Brown, the at large faculty representative for student government. She is a Mining Engineer and a Sophomore, at CSM.

Senate appointments:

Tomas Meinecke and Ray Zhang are serving on the Senate this year, but are not present at today's meeting. There are still two available positions. Chet is in the process of getting a list of faculty from Academic Affairs. The Blackboard site set up for elections has been deleted. Chet is working on trying to reactivate this. It may be possible to ask Craig Harmon to pull the old content from archives. Chet will follow up. Steve Sonnenburg has expressed interest in serving on the Senate. However, the deadline with regard to expressing interest has well passed. Chet requested approval for Steve to be considered. The nominees will be going out to eligible faculty for a vote. There was a higher response from faculty this year in regard to serving than in past years. The timing of sending the request in August, rather than April, might have something to do with it. Camp recommends letting Steve continue as a nominee rather than suppressing interest. LAIS is currently not represented, neither is PE. If possible, Spear would like to have the vote completed within the next two weeks. The Faculty Senate agreed to keep all 4 names in as nominees.

John Dorgan is the Academic Trustee to the Board of Trustees. His term expires Jan '13. The Senate needs to solicit nominations for his position. Then, there will need to be an academic vote. Dorgan needs to submit a report to the Senate. The new trustee will need to begin serving in January.

Undergraduate Student Council:

Undergraduate Council has not met yet this year. Hussein Amery will now be the chair of the council. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays.

Graduate Council:

The Graduate Council has not yet met this semester.

Research Council:

The Council will need a new Senate representative to replace Spear. The first meeting will be held on the third Wednesday in September. The Senate representative chairs the council. Spear called for volunteers. A nomination was made for Williams. This is a 1-year appointment. The Research Management Cabinet was started by John Poate and ran for several years. Two years ago, Spear met with Poate and discussed activities. The Cabinet no longer exists. Poate, Parker, Speer all come to the

Research Council now. This Council meets once per month, on the third Wednesdays at 4pm. Carr showed interest in joining the council, but had a time conflict. Williams will talk to Spear about serving in the future. An email will go out to the Senate for voting in the following week.

#### FACTIR:

Tracy recapped the purpose of this group for new senators. Representatives from the Faculty Senate met with the Board of Trustees last Spring. They identified 3 things that are issues facing the school, what is currently being done to address them, and how the faculty might help. They picked one topic to move forward with, which was improving retention. The FACTIR committee is comprised of about half faculty and half administration. Some of its faculty members are Hugh Miller, Gus Grievell, John Spear, Tracy Gardner, and Scott Houser. Administrative members Hussein Amery, Kay Schneider, Colin Terry, Dan Fox, Heather Boyd, and Terry Parker. Student representatives are Zachary Aman, Samantha Hawkins, and Matthew McNew. The committee gathered data, and broke it into three subgroups, who looked at: Mines data, broad data across the country, and ways to improve. Now the committee is synthesizing info. People are leaving Mines because they don't want to be an engineer. The exit survey doesn't necessarily probe the right issues. The good news is that the faculty can do a lot to help retention. FACTIR is looking at changing the admissions process and possibly putting together a short video of interviews of different engineers as an entrance to the application. Next Tuesday is the next meeting. Carr suggested that it is important to have a good amount of data that's convincing rather than just opinions.

#### President's Cabinet meeting:

Spear reported on the President's Cabinet. The Cabinet is comprised of the Provost, the Associate Provost, the deans, administrative chairs, John Poate, and Dan Fox. There are 20 people total. The Cabinet meets at 9am on every other Tuesday morning. The first meeting was today. It was meant to be an information sharing session.

Items of interest:

- Dan Fox said housing is at 110% occupancy. Every triple is full. The Commuter meal plan is up 500% from last year. There are more students eating on campus more than before. There is a tent set up outside of Maple Hall as an overflow eating area.
- The Wellness is center up and running.
- The Celebration of Mines is next week.
- There is a Hall of Fame dinner scheduled Friday night for the Saturday football game. Blaster Card gets any faculty member 4 tickets for athletic events.
- Four CSM students lost their houses to the wildfires. The Berger Fund has been established to give them support.
- Career Day is two weeks from today. There are 258 companies attending, with a 70 company waiting list. This is the second biggest Career Day in the school's history.
- There are 399 new grad students, 1327 grad students in total. 1078 incoming female freshmen brings the ratio to 28%. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November are Preview Mines dates. Recruiters going out this week for next year's class.
- CSMRI is trying to close their radiation license. The cleanup site is almost done.
- The Registrar's office is looking at recruiting more women and promoting Mines to high school sophomores. Carr pointed out that data shows that female students are being dissuaded from science as early as eighth grade.
- CSM raised \$56 Million in research funding last year, which was our best year. Poate does not expect this to be repeated this year because of cutbacks in D.C.

- Nigel Middleton just returned from a trip to Estana, Kazakhstan. There is a new university there that wants to partner with CSM in Energy and Mineral Development. They have partnered with Carnegie Melon, UCLA, and other schools. Scoggins wants to get involved with another university in another country.
- Joe Trubacz reported that bond ratings were not upgraded by Standard and Poors. It was felt that the visiting committee didn't understand the big picture. The debt that was created by the new construction will bring Mines down in a bond market. Bonding is how buildings are being paid for.
- 50% increase in Wifi use on campus. People now come in with 3 devices. CCIT is thinking about how to resolve that.
- Parker reported on the committee to replace the super computer Ra. The decision has been made and it's been ordered. Carr to gather further info.
- Scoggins invited the Senate to the BOT meeting the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 26th. The Senate should think about what to present to the BOT. The idea is to increase the interface between the BOT and campus. The Board includes a number of interesting people. Admiral Richard Truly – astronaut who did the first night shuttle landing - should give a talk to campus. It might be a good idea to have a yearly event featuring members of the Board. MAC might be a useful resource. Discussion will continue. The Summer Field Session requirement issue has not been brought up before the Board yet. The Provost has been unwilling to go forward. Chet recapped the proposal from last year.

#### Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics:

Ivar Reimanis is the committee representative. He passed out 12 copies of a report from the committee.

#### Discussion items:

The Senate still needs to make a few committee appointments. The Student Conduct Appeals Board is short one member. Van Tyne nominated Chuck Stone. The Senate voted to recommend to him to the President. There also needs to be a Faculty Senate representative to this board. The board reviews cases for undergrads and grad and is only called when there is a student appeal. The Senate decided to wait until elections to solicit volunteers. Chip Durfee is stepping down from the safety committee. Physics has nominated Ulrike Hagar for the committee, Carr agrees. A letter to nominate Stone and Hagar to the president will go out from Chet. The Senate needs to supply 4-6 people for the University P&T committee. They need to be full professors and there can't be two reps from the same department. The Senate has to nominate double the number of available seats. The Provost will get to choose from the nominees. This should be dealt with during the Senate's September meeting. The Faculty Handbook Committee needs a Senate rep. Ray Zhang was nominated to the President. David Wu was appointed as a faculty rep, but cannot serve now because he is a DH.

#### Naming of the College:

The Senate has to approve the name of the green college. In the bulletin, it is the College of Engineering and Applied Science. Physics has had extensive discussion surrounding this issue and have produced detailed reasons why this is the wrong name for the college. The acronym sounds bad. The actual number of faculty are more applied science than engineering. The naming process seems counter-productive. The people driving the high-performance computing are in this second college, rather than in CECS. The naming procedure is also confusing. Spear will try to gather more info prior to the next meeting as far as what the Senate is expected to provide regarding the naming process. Faculty in MME are supporting the name and feel that Engineering should be the primary descriptor. Van Tyne

suggested that departments put together statements concerning their views of the proposed name. Faculty do not feel that they were asked for much input on the first college. Camp suggested that the Senate discover what potential impact it has before investing lots of time.

Plus/Minus Grading System:

Sulzbach reported that the Registrar has left it is up to the faculty to assign the boundaries of the plus/minus grading system. Dr. Aurora's Statics course has changed the grading system so that 85-89% is an A-. He is essentially building in a curve before grading. Plus/minus grading has been turned on for undergrads in the entire school. It would be useful to understand how these classes fit into the larger picture.

Approved

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John R. Spear  
Faculty Senate President

Approved

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Tracy Gardner  
Faculty Senate Secretary

Recorded

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Jennifer P.  
Faculty Senate Recording Secretary