

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
 September 11, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Hill Hall 300

**Attendees:**

P	Tzahi Cath (CEE), Chair
---	-------------------------

**Voting Members:** 12 total (7 needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Linda Battalora (PE)	P	Jeff King (MME)	P	Alexis Sitchler (GE)
P	Paula Farca (HASS)	P	Jon Leydens (HASS)	P	Angie Sower (CH)
P	Gus Greivel (AMS)	P	Lisa Nickum (LB)	A	Neal Sullivan (ME)
P	Alina Handorean (EDS)	P	Marcelo Simoes (EE)	P	Steve Thompson (MME)

**Other Attendees and Guests:**

P	Joe Bourgeois (GSG)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)		
A	Michaela Serpas (USG)	P	Cathy Timm (RO)		
P	Tom Boyd (AA)	P	Yaoguo Li (GP)		
A	Lara Medley (RO)	P	Sam Spiegel (Trefny)		

1) **Provost / Academic Affairs Update**

Tom Boyd

Boyd indicated that a Board meeting is coming up on Friday. Agenda will include capital projects update and status. Report will also include admissions update; new Grad students equaled 392 which is down from 425 last year. UGrad new students were 1203 freshmen; 50 more than expected.

Last spring, the Senate provided BOT a recommendation for multi-year contracts for teaching library faculty; it is on the agenda to discuss. BOT asked Boyd to provide data on retention of faculty which he is prepared to discuss along with details on resignations and retirements.

Names were supposed to be in hand for the Provost search last Friday and none have been received to date. Boyd is in contact with search firm for update.

Boyd received 9 applications for the Fryrear Chairs. They will be reviewed and one person will be chosen by end of September this year for the 3 year appointment.

2) **Registrar Update**

Lara Medley and Cathy Timm

No updates from Registrar’s Office. Question came up pertaining to changes to summer term and when it will be formalized. Timm will take away for follow up.

3) **Approval of Minutes – August 28, 2018**

Tzahi Cath

One updated required to the Library Committee Update. The budget numbers were incorrectly stated; it should be “...cut from \$19 to \$13 million.”

**MOTION:** To approve minutes of August 28, 2018 with modification noted.

Motion: Greivel, Seconded: Simoes. Approved.

4) **Committee Seats to be Filled**

Alina Handorean

Handorean reported that there are two committees pending: Board of Student Media and Safety Committee. She put out a call for volunteers and received names that she will forward to the President's office.

5) **Nomination of Faculty**

Tzahi Cath / Alina Handorean

- Faculty Trustee – 2 year term ends Dec 2018 – (current representative is Terri Hogue)  
Cath and Handorean have drafted an email to solicit nominees for this position, which will need two-thirds vote from the faculty. There is time, elections will be held the beginning of December.
- Distinguished Lecturer Series – No discussion at this time.

6) **Grad Council Updates**

Marcelo Simoes

6.1 Geology and Geological Engineering (GE)

Wendy Zhou

[status: appr'v'd GC 9/5/18]

1 new degree: MS-NT GeoInformatics

4 new certificates: GIS/Geoinformatics: Geospatial Information Technology  
GIS for Geohazards Evaluation  
GIS for Environmental Studies  
GIS for Natural Resources Assessment

3 new courses: GEGN579: Python Scripting for Geographic Information Systems  
GEGN542A: Advanced Engineering Geomorphology  
SYGN588: GIS-Based Real World Learning Project

Zhou shared details of the new Certificates and Non-Thesis Masters. They will be online programs; there are only about 30 programs nationwide with 2 in Colorado at DU and CU Denver. Question was raised about the 300 level course being part of the program. Zhou explained that it is allowed for a Certificate as long as the course is listed explicitly. Definition for online is that as long as you offer 50% or higher online courses, you can call it an online program.

**MOTION:** To approve the new programs as submitted.

Motion: Simoes, Seconded: Sitchler. Approved.

6.2 Geophysics & Geophysical Engineering (GP)

Yaoguo Li

[status: appr'v'd GC 9/5/18]

2 new programs: MS-NT Geophysics  
MS-NT Geophysical Engineering

2 program changes: MS: Geophysics  
MS: Geophysical Engineering  
- Change hours required / add double counting

Li shared presentation with rationale to reduce required credit hours from 36 to 30 and offer double counting. As well, they wish to offer new MS Non-Thesis programs to tap into needs of industry. Question as to whether there is an option for independent study. It is not a requirement; but if student has an area of specialty an independent study can be put together as an elective.

**MOTION:** To approve the new programs as submitted.

Motion: Simoes, Seconded: Greivel. Approved.

## 7) UnderGrad Council Updates

Gus Greivel

The UnderGrad Council has not met yet this year; however, there is an item that will involve Faculty Senate regarding voting privileges for student representatives.

## 8) Suicide and Mental Health Task Force

Colin Terry

Since the last presentation to Senate two weeks ago regarding the latest incident on campus, there is no available Coroner's report, but the situation details suggest the student committed suicide. Student was a freshman and had started over the summer; there were some challenges related to the student fully participating in university summer events (e.g., Launch and Camp). Staff had been in consistent communication with the mother and there was no indication that there would have been any harm to self. This situation was a complex one in that it was witnessed by family and staff in the middle of the day. On this particular day, the contracted international expert on suicide prevention was on campus doing focus groups. She stayed with staff throughout the day and helped on the emergency response team with the President.

Concern expressed that faculty have less information than students and feel there should be a better mechanism for communication with faculty so they can have an informed response. From hindsight, Terry acknowledged that they should have pulled faculty and staff together right away, or more directly communicated with faculty/staff. Feel that the team did a good job in handling the students' concerns; a few years ago this wouldn't have happened. There are issues around how to communicate to preserve the privacy of the family and the team continues to work on how to best manage this going forward.

At last Faculty Senate meeting Terry heard two key things: (1) The importance of reporting results after Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas' review. This will be available in the spring. (2) Consideration for faculty and staff mental health in managing plans going forward. This is not part of the focus or mission of Student Life; but concern was relayed to the President's office where it will be an item for HR to address.

Next steps: Two forums are scheduled for Sept 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm; the same content will be shared at 2 different times. Additional training is scheduled for suicide prevention month. QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) are 90 minute trainings. Essentially, they are gatekeeper trainings focused on conversations so someone knows what to say and do in the moment. These are scheduled for faculty on Sept 19<sup>th</sup> at noon and Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm. These trainings will also will be offered to students.

Mental health trainings, also known as first aid for mental health, is an eight hour class that will be offered in October. It is typically done over 2 days, a 4 hour session each day. The date for this is Oct 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> and is highly encouraged.

Terry's team will assess signup and schedule more sessions as needed. It's been a good opportunity to work with local agencies that want to help on campus.

Question was raised about Grad students and some recent changes that impact their access to services. Terry reiterated that Grad and Undergrad students all have access to services. He indicated that Counseling Services don't have enough time to handle all the requests. To address the issue, student fees have been reallocated to hire a full-time professional as a case manager so students can receive more consistent, in-depth, frequent care with providers in community. Mines school insurance has free counseling services and the school can refer people to community services. Counselors are tasked with handling more immediate and shorter-term work with students.

Item came up about this subject related to needing a holistic discussion around the role of faculty. Recommendation is to wrap it into a program related to how faculty can assist. Terry indicated that a robust tool kit might be a way to address this so faculty has resources to help. It would ideally include information on policies, resources, and expectations for faculty and how FERPA intersects. He indicated that if there is any concern about a person's wellbeing, faculty and staff can talk to others about concerns and is not a FERPA violation.

#### 9) **Faculty Evaluation** – next steps

Sam Spiegel

Spiegel was invited to continue discussion from previous meeting as it's an important topic. Discussion centered around whether Faculty Senate wants to put together a task force with Trefny Center serving in an advisory role.

Spiegel shared 10 different suggestions to evaluate faculty on teaching that may be part of what the task force would consider. Suggestion was raised that Mines might use different technology that is more relevant to students and how they communicate today, for example "likes, dislikes, or follow" used on Facebook.

Current system is biased. Goal is to have more consistency across campus in evaluation and better aligned to tasks that are being asked of faculty. Spiegel reiterated that given significance of this topic, any committee should be led by Faculty Senate. Trefny Center should be a part of it; but not take on the leadership. Opinion was expressed that the subject matter expert, Trefny Center, would be the best entity to lead with Faculty Senate representation. Additional viewpoint was made that the communication from Faculty Senate would give any recommendations and suggestions the importance and attention needed.

Suggest that Faculty Senate charge a committee, to include members of Graduate and Undergraduate faculty and students. Simoes would like to serve. Battalora was involved in similar topic on UnderGrad Council a while back; content was developed with discussion items that could be retrieved.

Timeline for this topic was discussed. Spiegel suggested that a decision made this year and a plan to pilot or roll out next school year would be a nice transition for ABET cycle. The evaluation software is renewed through December 2019 and could be one of the decisions the task force might be charged to review also.

For the task force, the key is to find a group of passionate people; Senator does not need to be chair. Also look at size, type of faculty, departmental representation is not as important, teaching methodology is important.

Sitchler agreed to formulate the charge and present at next Senate meeting; she will also share with Greivel and Spiegel. After more concrete details are vetted, Greivel may bring to UnderGraduate Council for a chair.

#### 10) **Miscellaneous Business**

Tzahi Cath

- Voting privileges for USG (and potentially GSG) Committee Members

This has been approved at UnderGrad Council and is now at the Faculty Senate to address. The UGC voted in favor, but it was not a unanimous decision. It opens up issues for other areas of responsibility on campus that may want to have voting privileges. Bylaws would also need to be updated. Greivel read the notes from UGC and concerns listed from the UGC minutes. Topic will be discussed at next Faculty Senate meeting ensuring that our student government representatives are part of the dialogue.

- Add'l Representatives from Programs to be Members of Councils  
A request has been raised for additional representatives from Interdisciplinary programs to sit on Grad Council. Handorean shared the specific language from the Bylaws; not all Interdisciplinary programs are listed as having representation. The question is now before the Senators to determine if this needs to be changed.

Primary role of Council is to represent and manage curriculum and the Interdisciplinary viewpoints are important. Some of their programs are larger than some departments. Concern is that some people may have two votes representing the same department. This issue could be addressed with changes in bylaws if needed. There could also be some distinction about what defines a program being involved in Council.

Kaufman is now overseeing this area. He is gathering data on size of these various programs and will have a program administrator; it will look a lot more like a department does today. Suggestion that Cath meet with Kaufman to discuss topic and review information on what currently exists in the Interdisciplinary programs today and projections for next 5-10 years. It appears that there are 10 programs right now with several being added already this year. With reorg on campus, it might be time to reorg representation on committees.

- Tech fees and CCIT  
Discussion around CCIT managing tech fees and how Senate wants to address. Last year the demand was higher than funds available. Cath will talk with Mike Erickson and invite him to a Senate meeting to discuss.
- Research Council updates  
Department heads have been selected to serve on committee; a draft document has been prepared to include in the faculty handbook. Faculty Senate will need to vote on changing the bylaws. With shared governance, question came up as to whether faculty is giving away the role of research. Cath shared his thoughts on this having served extensively on Research Council; it was established when there was no VP of Research on campus. Having a representative from Faculty Senate would be a good thing. Awards coming from Senate might mean more to people. Discussion will continue as it relates to changing bylaws.
- **Additional Topics** – No discussion at this time.
  - Faculty climate survey results
  - Consistently of MS, MS-NT across campus
  - Other suggestions from Senators
  - FS Coffee Hour and/or Happy Hour

**Meeting adjourned** at 4:00 pm

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 2 – 4 pm, Hill Hall 300. Please send all items for agenda to Cathy Timm ([cgtimm@mines.edu](mailto:cgtimm@mines.edu)) one week prior to the meeting.