

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 November 27, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Hill Hall 300

Attendees:

P	Tzahi Cath (CEE), Chair
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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)	P	Neal Sullivan (ME)
P	Alina Handorean (EDS)	P	Marcelo Simoes (EE)	A	Steve Thompson (MME)

Other Attendees and Guests:

P	Joe Bourgeois (GSG)	A	Colin Terry (Student Life)	P	Paul Martin (AMS)
A	Michaela Serpas (USG)	P	Cathy Timm (RO)	P	Mike Erickson (CCIT)
A	Tom Boyd (AA)	A	Lara Medley	P	Paul Martin (AMS)

1) **Provost / Academic Affairs Update**

Tzahi Cath

Boyd unable to attend. With the recent notification of a student death by suicide over the Thanksgiving holiday break, Cath asked for thoughts; it continues to be a tough and difficult subject to deal with. A senator shared an ongoing conversation with some grad students related to being able to get help; it appears that the wait time to see a mental health professional in our health center may take two to four weeks. In addition, there is also a referral process to get medication if needed. This extends the timeline to get relief up to an eight-week period. Perhaps this is an area that can be addressed by the school.

Funding is another area of concern as it relates to students’ health care benefits and what it can and cannot cover, especially when having to be referred off-campus for support.

Comment raised that over the past decade, it appears that incoming freshman are arriving on campus with higher expectations to succeed and it is, admittedly, a stressful time. While the school has programs to assist, it appears that additional intervention is needed to address mental health and well-being on an ongoing basis as a way to head off a crisis. Additionally, comment was raised about how faculty can effectively be engaged in the life of students.

Sullivan, as a member of the mental health task force, shared that all activities outlined in previous meetings have been completed. It appears that the counseling center is overwhelmed. While there is anecdotal evidence that there are significant wait times to receive service, the counseling center needs to weigh in on this item. Sullivan shared that the consultant that was brought on board to assist Mines with the issue has been actively involved on the committee; he will determine when a report will be available and update the Senate. Senators would like to determine how the faculty senate can assist in these efforts.

2) **Registrar Update**

Cathy Timm

Nothing to report and no questions.

3) **Approval of Minutes** – November 17, 2018

Tzahi Cath

MOTION: To approve minutes of November 17, 2018 with minor changes noted in draft posted in Canvas.
Motion: Sitchler, Seconded: Greivel. 1 abstention. Approved.

4) **Nomination of Faculty** – nominees and survey update

Tzahi Cath / Alina Handorean

▪ Faculty Trustee – two-year term ends Dec 2018 – (current representative is Terri Hogue). Handorean reported that there are currently two applicants – Battalora and Brune; she is still accepting nominees. As it relates to timing, the call for nominees will close on December 3, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Voting can be opened on December 4, 2018. Length of time to keep voting open is TBD; two-thirds of faculty need to vote so this will drive the timing. Initially will look at a two-week window for voting and review results. With the holiday and finals, the response may be impacted. Comment that this can be extended a bit into the new year since the first board meeting for the new trustee to attend is February 8, 2019.

Handorean will work with Timm for the best way to solicit a vote. All tenure, tenure track, library, and teaching faculty are to be included in the vote. Research faculty are excluded. Farca provided additional information from the bylaws that states that the academic faculty including tenured, tenure-track faculty, teaching faculty, library faculty, and research faculty and even members in the administration who are faculty are to be included in voting.

- New Senator: 3 volunteers to consider (Andy Herring, Fred Sarazin, Kadri Dagdelen). Cath shared a document with background of each person being considered. Senators voted and Herring received the most votes. Cath will contact him to start his term at next meeting.

5) **Other Committee Updates**

Tzahi Cath / Alina Handorean

- Research Committee member – nominees
No discussion at this time.

- Nomination from Faculty Oversight Committee for Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR)
Trewyn has agreed to serve and committee has recommended him.

MOTION: To appoint Trewyn as faculty athletic representative.
Motion: Cath, Seconded: Sullivan. All in favor. No abstentions. Approved.

- Criteria for Faculty Research Awards (see document on Canvas) Tzahi Cath
Cath shared a model for the Senators to consider for selecting faculty for this award. He would like to vet the plan with faculty senate, then with department heads and research committee. A number of suggestions were raised related to additional information to capture to make the process more balanced; they include, considering adding a post-doc, faculty mentoring, and number of students with whom they've co-authored a paper. In addition, consider the quantity of papers written over preceding years, how often faculty can be eligible to receive award, or number of years at Mines. Suggestion raised that the team might consider going through an exercise using sample data to see how the model performs and if it appears to provide objective and fair results.

Cath sat on research council for several years and sense is that the process can be improved. There will be a call for nominations in January and he'd like to have some sort of matrix that could be used to assist in the selection. Typically will receive 5 or 6 nominations.

Sitchler will use the existing information and create a rubric for Senators to consider. Comments should be forwarded to her before next meeting.

6) **Briefings and Information Items**

▪ CCIT Update and Tech Fees

Mike Erickson

Erickson shared slides that he has used at town hall information sessions to make folks aware of Mines IT Strategic Planning activity and get initial impressions and feedback. Comment raised that faculty should be involved in conversations; Erickson agreed that as the plan gets into the operational stages in next 12 months, faculty will be included. There is also a need to provide additional support for research. Part of the plan is to look at aspirational institutions; yet may want to look at smaller schools that have initiated creative and innovative plans that can be replicated at Mines.

Erickson will attend a future faculty senate meeting to address tech fees.

▪ Web Site and WordPress Migration

Mike Erickson / Tzahi Cath

Cath shared that there have been discussions at Academic Council including Han and Ramirez. Erickson and his team are working on the migration; the communications team is overseeing the look, style, and branding. Within the boundaries of the new design, the question is open as to whether there is additional flexibility for faculty to have their own web site and branding. CCIT needs to close down the old system and migrate over to WordPress.

Question raised about size of content for the new system; Erickson is not aware of limitations. Related to email, concern expressed that faculty is on a different platform than students and there are mailbox limitations. Erickson shared that they are in the process of moving all employees from exchange on premise to exchange on the cloud which will address mailbox size and increase from 30 GB to 500 GB. About 10% of the faculty and admin staff have been moved; sharing calendars presents some challenges and these are being moved in waves. Additionally, CCIT is looking at all risks associated with platform and combining into one for students and faculty to improve collaboration.

Cath will invite Ramirez and Han to next meeting to continue the discussion.

7) **Grad Council Updates**

Marcelo Simoes

New programs for academic year 2019-20 need to be introduced at Council by November 28, 2018 so that they can be approved in time; updates will be shared at next faculty senate meeting.

8) **UnderGrad Council Updates**

Gus Greivel

New programs for academic year 2019-20 need to be introduced at Council by November 28, 2018 so that they can be approved in time; updates will be shared at next faculty senate meeting.

9) **Miscellaneous Business**

▪ Taskforce for Evaluation of Instructional Effectiveness – objectives

Alina Handorean

No discussion.

▪ Faculty Climate Survey – potential vote on permanent committee

Jon Leydens

Leydens and Cath will meet to determine next steps. The topic will be given high priority in the next FS meeting.

▪ Promotion & Tenure – draft memo

Marcelo Simoes

Simoes exchanged emails with Cath on the subject. Simoes feels that information should be documented in Faculty Handbook. Issue at hand is that abstentions are not addressed and they effectively signify a no vote. The handbook does not address this topic.

▪ Support for “Send Silence Packing” event

Neal Sullivan

Sullivan is asking faculty senate to send a letter to Boyd asking for \$2,000. Sullivan has draft and will forward to Cath and Timm to edit and forward to Boyd.

MOTION: To approve sending letter with request for funds to Boyd.

Motion: Grievel, Seconded Nickum. All in favor. No abstentions. Approved.

▪ Consistency of MS, MS-NT across Campus

Tzahi Cath

This topic has been on the agenda with no action. King will write up something for discussion at later date. Likely will not have time to impact changes for academic year 2019-20.

▪ FS Coffee Hour and/or Happy Hour

Tzahi Cath

Senators agreed that a coffee hour is a good idea. Nickum will send dates for a couple of coffee hours toward the end of spring. Suggestion to rotate the days of the week and times, and potentially over lunch to reach as many faculty as possible.

▪ Additional Topics – items were not discussed:

- Distinguished Lecture Series – upcoming event
- Add'l Representatives from Programs to Councils – pending

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 2 – 4 pm, Hill Hall 300. Please send all items for agenda to Cathy Timm (cgtimm@mines.edu) one week prior to the meeting.