

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 December 11, 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

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

Other Attendees and Guests:

A	Joe Bourgeois (GSG)	P	Michaela Serpas (USG)	P	Mark Ramirez (Comm)
P	Tom Boyd (AA)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)	P	Sue James (Comm)
A	Tricia Douthit	P	Cathy Timm (RO)	P	Derrick Morgan
P	Dean Nieuwma (EDS)	P	Jeff Paone (CS)	P	Bryan Siebuhr (CCIT)
P	Yaoguo Li (GP)				

1) **Provost / Academic Affairs Update**

Tom Boyd

Registrar update – Boyd referenced communication regarding registrar and indicated that search will begin immediately. Douthit will serve as interim registrar and has worked previously in the office. He asked for everyone’s patience and communication regarding items that are needed. Approximate timeline for replacement is June 2019.

Related to construction and space on campus, Boyd feels that the Green Center will be ready for fall with some rooms opening up. Other moves and changes are taking place to utilize space efficiently.

HLC online approval notification was distributed. The school has been gearing up to offer graduate degree programs; unfortunately, additional steps are required with regional accreditor, HLC. The state requires us to be accredited by a regional accreditor which allows us to obtain federal funding. They accredit the institution as a whole, not individual degree programs. Request was to expand delivery modes to allow online degree programs in addition to our ability to offer online courses. There were three options that could have been delivered as a result of our review: decline our ability to offer programs out right, approve for one program, or approve for all online programs. HLC denied our request to do all programs; they approved our ability to do one program at this time. We will proceed with the Space Resources program and will reapply in the Spring. We should continue to offer online courses to remote and residential students so that we can evaluate and move our online capability forward.

For clarity, Mines can continue to offer online courses. As it relates to programs, the distinction is that once a student has taken more than 50% of courses in a program, it is considered an online program. We can enroll students in online courses, they cannot complete more than 50% of their courses in an online fashion. For Certificates and Masters, we can offer courses related to these new programs, yet cannot market the online program. Once student crosses 50% mark, they cannot apply courses to the program. Budget requests for online marketing have been put on hold.

2) **Registrar Update**

Nothing additional to report.

3) **Approval of Minutes** – November 27, 2018

Tzahi Cath

MOTION: To approve minutes of November 27, 2018.

Motion: Cath, Seconded: Greivel. No abstentions. 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)

Cath would like to send out survey as soon as possible. Timm met with Velloff and suggestion was to use email with Google docs survey. Suggestion and preference is to use Canvas; Timm to talk to Velloff again.

5) **Other Committee Updates**

Tzahi Cath / Alina Handorean

▪ Research Committee member – nominees

Cath asked Herring to sit on this committee; he indicated that he does not have the time.

▪ Criteria for Faculty Research Awards

Tzahi Cath / Alexis Sitchler

Cath received Sitchler's version of criteria based off of Cath's original suggestion. Cath met with research office and they liked the draft. Cath will finalize proposed process and format with Sitchler and will send letter to campus for nominees and criteria being used.

▪ FOCSA Senate Rep

Handorean indicated that we need a representative per the bylaws. Commitment is 1 hour per month and 6 hours at end of semester for exit interviews. There were no volunteers to serve.

6) **Briefings and Information Items**

▪ Campus Surveys – past results and upcoming surveys

Jon Leydens / Tzahi Cath

Two surveys have been administered; they are on two year cycles. Keeping to this cycle means that another one is due in Spring 2018. The data analysis has not been completed yet. Issue is with open-ended data and how to share it. Need exists to have more people on the committee to do data analysis.

Leydens shared presentation with results; they were disseminated to leadership, but not to faculty. In discussions with Boyd, he felt that information could be sent to leadership reminding them to share details and release to faculty. Question raised as to who can release data - department heads or faculty senate. Suggestion was made that date should be placed on website, rather it should be shared in a faculty forum.

As it relates to the climate survey, Cath feels that information needs to be released to campus. Perhaps a note could be drafted with comparison of last two surveys with communication including dates when work will be complete. It's a challenge to meet deadlines as there aren't enough people to do the work; the committee includes Leydens and Sower. Cath, Sullivan, Farca, and Nickum volunteered to help. Committee meets approximately once a month; Cath will coordinate a meeting.

In early January, Leydens will discuss next steps for new survey and suggestions for a faculty forum where information can be shared.

▪ Web Site and WordPress Migration

Mark Ramirez / Sue James / Bryan Siebuhr

Siebuhr shared that the web migration began several years ago to update Mines school web pages; the next step is to update research and personal web pages. Communication with the original date to move by end of January was premature. WordPress is the current platform, yet inside.mines.edu still exists. A pilot group of people have been selected to work on the project; WordPress is an easier tool to work with, however, there are limitations. Project team will look at the concerns and work with faculty to address. Deadline that was published in Daily Blast will be addressed and no longer applies. There is no new deadline, yet there still exists some urgency to close down server.

WordPress will have a fair amount of flexibility and is an agile tool for users to update and change content. A new website will be created for all to learn how to build and maintain their site. With the migration, there will be greater flexibility for access on more devices, like phones. The team will work toward better communication and support.

▪ Academic Misconduct Policy

Colin Terry / Derrick Morgan

Terry and Morgan indicated that they administer the academic misconduct policy. Several articles have been received on the subject and feel that it is a faculty senate initiative; the last time the policy was examined was in 2011. Currently, there is no chance for student redemption and, as written, feels like a punitive policy vs. a learning opportunity. Comment raised that faculty have options. Potentially there could be changes to be more of a restorative justice. Some schools have policy on the topic.

Terry suggested putting together a faculty senate sub-committee to develop revisions and recommendations. This semester they've seen less than 15 instances. Last spring there were about 50 or 60; many came about from unclear expectations about pre-reqs and how collaborative work is permissible on some courses. There is a potential need to better equip faculty to be more clear and proactive on items. Cheating seems to be rare; concern expressed that oftentimes the space where students are taking exams is so tight and this might be providing more of an opportunity to cheat.

There are a couple of faculty interested in helping and Terry would like to see group formally charged as an ad hoc committee entrusting Terry and Morgan to work on issues with faculty members present from departments that are most affected. King, Sower, and Greivel are willing to serve.

MOTION: That senate impanel an ad hoc committee to investigate changes to academic misconduct policy consisting of at least one senator and faculty members.

Motion: Greivel, Seconded: Nickum. no abstentions. Approved.

▪ Mental Health Taskforce – update

Neal Sullivan

No update to present.

▪ Support for “Send Silence Packing” event – update

Neal Sullivan

Event to be held during finals week in spring when national committee is available; this date is not universally accepted and a proposal was submitted to move to Fall of 2019. The group felt that end of spring would work and will proceed and determine best date. Sullivan indicated that they have the funds needed and there is no further need to draft note for funding.

▪ Travel Grants for Teaching Faculty

Tzahi Cath / Paula Farca

A request was made to faculty senate to review the typical average cost for conferences and to increase amount paid. Cath shared details with Academic Council. Faculty senate feels that someone needs to manage the budget and allocations. Question raised about the policy and mechanism to refill account, priorities for funding, or considerations where funding can be increased. Cath and Farca will put together email.

7) **Grad Council Updates**

Marcelo Simoes

New Programs

7.1 Engineering, Design, and Society (EDS)

Dean Nieuwma / Yaoguo Li

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18]

3 new programs: MS, MS-NT, CR Humanitarian Engineering and Science

Nieuwma shared details of the new program and Li was in attendance as his department will be the first one to offer up a track in Geophysics. Idea is to replicate to other programs that are interested. Electives have been identified and approved. Question raised about the funding; Humanitarian Engineering has funds available to provide support as necessary, exact amount is to be determined. Geophysics is first program to be a part of the program and they are well positioned to participate. Potential additional department in the near future is Civil and Environmental Engineering.

MOTION: To approve programs as submitted.

Motion: Simoes, Seconded: Sullivan. no abstentions. Approved.

7.2 Computer Science (CS)

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18]

Jeff Paone

1 new program: Post-Baccalaureate Professional Computer Science Certificate

Paone shared some details on the new post-bacc certificate. Target is for continuing education; students that do not have a computer science undergraduate degree. Question about students having already taken the two 200-level courses if they come back for this certificate. Paone believes this would fall into the transfer category. The program will be offered to anyone, not just Mines students. Paone has meetings with Trefny to understand new guidelines for offering an online program.

MOTION: To approve program as submitted.

Motion: Simoes, Seconded: Greivel. 1 abstention. Approved.

Program Changes

Marcelo Simoes

7.3 Computer Science (CS)

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18].

1 program chg: MS – Computer Science

7.4 Underground Construction and Tunneling Engineering (UCT)

[status: appr'd GC 11/07/18]

3 program chgs: MS | MS-NT | PhD Underground Construction and Tunneling Eng

7.5 Material Science (ML)

[status: appr'd GC 11/07/18]

3 program chgs: MS, MS-NT, PhD Materials Science

7.6 Interdisciplinary – Geochemistry (IN)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 5 program chgs: MP-NT in Environmental Geochemistry
- MS-PhD Geochemistry Degree Track
- MS-PhD Environmental Biochemistry Degree Track

7.7 Geology & Geological Engineering (GE)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 7 program chgs: MS & PhD Geology
- MS & PhD Geological Engineering
- MS-NT Geological Engineering
- MP-NT in Mineral Exploration
- MP in Petroleum Reservoir Systems

7.8 Economics and Business (EB)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 2 program chgs: MS & PhD – Mineral & Energy Economics

Simoes gave a brief update on the program changes that were approved in Grad Council and indicated that there were no controversial items. Changes were primarily language changes, adding double counting, and cleaning up catalog and electives.

MOTION: To approve program changes as submitted.

Motion: Simoes, Seconded: Greivel. no abstentions. Approved.

8) **UnderGrad Council Updates**

Gus Greivel

In general, Greivel expressed concern that programs are being approved without appropriate approval of courses, in particular undergraduate portions of graduate programs. Suggestion that faculty senate should be looking closer at all details. Comment raised that programs in past have been approved without full course approvals. Potentially, courses should be approved in parallel with the program. In recent years, there has been a rush to create programs. If there are core classes involved, it presents more of a challenge and should only be included if they are fully approved or already exist. As well, any policy or procedure that is put in place should include special topics, 498 classes.

Greivel will draft language for a policy to consider.

Program Changes:

Gus Greivel

8.1 Electrical Engineering (EE)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 1 program chg: BS in Electrical Engineering

8.2 Geology and Geological Engineering (GE)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 1 program chg: BS in Geological Engineering

8.3 Petroleum Engineering (PE)

[status: apprv'd GC 11/28/18]

- 1 program chg: BS in Petroleum Engineering

8.4 Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18]

1 program chg: BS in Chemical Engineering

8.5 Geophysics & Geophysical Engineering (GE)

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18]

1 program chg: Minor/ASI in Geophysical Engineering

8.6 Computer Science (CS)

[status: appr'd GC 11/28/18]

1 program chg: BS in Computer Science (excluding senior design piece of proposal)

Greivel shared that most are minor changes and not substantive. Computer Science has a suite of changes related to electives; primarily reducing credit hours by 1.5 hours and reducing field sessions. Geology and Geophysical Engineering changed up courses in their degree program and adding one credit hour.

Electrical Engineering has programmatic change in field sessions and will deliver 1 credit hour courses during the academic year. They will remove summer field session requirement that received a mixed vote from undergraduate council (12 for, 3 opposed and 1 abstention). This was approved yet in the past, the Board of Trustees has not approved. Mechanical Engineering has already made similar change.

The CS program had a change associated with senior design that was withdrawn at previous council meeting. However, they have met as a department and will bring this element back to undergraduate council for voting. Minor elective changes are being voted on today.

MOTION: To approve program changes as submitted.

Motion: Greivel, Seconded: Simoes. no abstentions. Approved.

Suggestion raised that both chairs prepare a brief overview of the changes for senators to review.

9) **Miscellaneous Business**

- Taskforce for Evaluation of Instructional Effectiveness – objectives Alina Handorean

No discussion

- FS Coffee Hour and/or Happy Hour – update Lisa Nickum

No discussion

- Distinguished Lecture Series – April 3, 2019, 3:30 – 5:00 Cathy Timm

No discussion

- Additional Topics – Add'l Representatives from Programs to Councils – pending

No discussion

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 2 – 4 pm, Hill Hall 300. Please send all items for agenda to Cathy Timm (cgtimm@mines.edu) one week prior to the meeting.