

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

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

P	Andy Herring (Chair)	P	Robin Bullock (EDS)	P	Sebnem Duzgun (MN)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE)
P	Alina Handorean (EDS)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)	P	Jeff King (MME)	P	Yvette Kuiper (GE)
P	John McCray (CEE)	P	Cynthia Norrgran (CBE)	P	Alexis Sitchler (GE)	A	Neal Sullivan (ME)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)						

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Linda Battalora (Trustee)	P	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)
A	Jennifer Veloff (Trefny)	P	Sydney Marchando (USG)	P	Amanda Field (GSG)	P	Julie Lambert (EM)
P	Lisa Nickum (LB)	P	Samie McCleary (USG-alt)	P	Pres. Paul Johnson	P	Dan Fox (Student Life)
P	Amy Landis (DI&A)	P	Kristine Csavina (ME)				

Welcome

Andy Herring

Provost / Academic Affairs Update

Rick Holz

Holz stated Census is September 10, 2020 and enrollment remains steady; 10 students withdrew over the weekend. Due to lack of SAT or ACT scores and strong competition with other colleges, focusing on the Student Signature Experience and distinctive programs are critical to enrollment.

Question regarding changes to Covid-19 updates provided to faculty: Holz indicated Mines Administration realized the need to improve communications and notifications with faculty regarding positive Covid-19 cases in the Mines community. Question regarding the existing case law and accordance with HIPPA: Due to privacy, identities are not disclosed. Students may disclose directly to faculty. Question regarding the extent that faculty should participate in contact tracing: Holz stated contract tracing is being completed through the CRIT team, following the CDC guidelines. Discussion continued surrounding contact tracing, positive case reporting, advisement sessions with students impacted by a medical situation, and preferences regarding faculty notifications. Faculty prefers direct communication from the administration on cases in order to be informed before rumors. Transparent communications would permit students to have a choice about their safety and permit faculty to have manageable conversations with students.

Holz reported that there are two groups: Students testing positive are isolated and students who have been in contact with a positive case are quarantined. Communicating isolated and quarantined cases will assist faculty with explanations. Mines Administration will incorporate the feedback from Faculty Senate to develop an improved process of communication. This will include reviewing the strain on the faculty of students switching to remote due to isolation or quarantine.

Registrar Update

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw stated the Registrar's Office is finishing the fall reconciliation for census. The catalog is open for submissions of courses and programs. The timeline is posted on the campus course site. An announcement will be sent soon regarding opening the spring 2021 and summer 2021 schedule of classes for departments to edit.

Question regarding the timing of students being dropped from courses due to pre-requisites at the start of the semester: Registration for the fall 2020 opened last spring, however collecting signatures/permissions on the blue form was not possible due to the switch to remote. A workflow was built for students to submit their pre-requisites and the `1,000 students in this category were reminded via email. In this process, the Registrar's Office identified that notifications should occur earlier, possibly before the term

begins. Mines is pre-requisite driven with several waivers, substitutions or equivalent experience allowed for students. The Registrar's Office continues to communicate with students requiring additional attention.

Approval of Minutes – August 25, 2020

Andy Herring

This item was tabled until the September 22, 2020 regular meeting.

Signature Student Experience

President Paul Johnson and Dan Fox

President Johnson thanked Faculty Senate for the invitation. He shared his power point presentation on the Signature Student Experience to discuss the importance and urgency of faculty leadership and faculty involvement for this particular Mines@150 initiative. Mines has a purpose to attract amazing students and challenges are upcoming due to changes in student pipelines related to standardized testing. With respect to students admitted, Mines yields 1 of 10 out-of-state and 1 of 3 in-state students. Other colleges have twice the out-of-state yield rate. Students are weighing the value of their selection of college and competing universities are growing their STEM programs. A Signature Student Experience promotes growth in affinity, which will lead to growth in philanthropy. Philanthropy is important as state support is guaranteed to decrease. The identity of Mines is relevant to relationships with industry partners, which exists primarily for access to graduates of Mines. Therein, the importance is placed on differentiation.

In the Signature Student Experience, highly qualified students follow customized pathways that consistently result in distinctive and highly-valued graduates. The range of opportunities includes classroom learning, experiential learning, traditions, excite and explore programs, connected communities, technical and business competencies, honors and scholar experiences, and deliberate professional preparedness. The qualities align with the expectations from industry professionals who hire our graduates. President Johnson outlined the present progress of each component in the overall student signature experience and the 2024 goals to enhance the components.

Different departments throughout campus have to commit and complete portions to achieve the cumulative experience. Student Life has to commit to the vertical connected communities. The Academic Affairs side has to own the first-year experience that inspires and gives an opportunity to explore. Leadership is required to integrate the other components, starting with an early exploration and inspire experience for students first coming to Mines and moving to connection with professional societies. Achieving this balance between academic assignments and equally important non-curricular development activities results in distinctive characteristics of Mines graduates.

President Johnson indicated resources are available to the Senate for the purpose of the Student Signature Experience. Next month is the formal launch of the Mines@150 Campaign. Significant investments have been secured aligning with the Student Signature Experience initiative, including infrastructure projects in McNeil Hall supporting team-based and design-based coursework; an innovation complex breaking ground in January with maker and group spaces; and the new Grewcock Scholars Program. After discussions with the Foundation, the Board of Governors has offered a discretionary fund, of which \$500,000 is designated to fund catalyst projects that are sustainable and align with this initiative and vision on the recommendation from Senate. Question regarding the potential process, timeline, and metrics for proposals seeking funding: Suggestion to compose an outline with consistent language from the Board of Governors to be distributed. Senate can review proposals and submit recommendations with funds disbursing as early as October to allow for implementation.

Discussion followed regarding expanding on current experiences, sharing information between departments and organizations, faculty engagement and participation, overlapping experiences spanning all years at Mines, creating components that transcend programs, connecting through combined courses, incorporating DI&A and changing campus culture, and defining the procedure and role of the Senate.

DI&A Diversity, Inclusion & Access

Amy Landis

Landis stated she has been promoting campus wide events. One event is Mines Wide Mentoring, a unique opportunity that matches mentors and mentees to engage and support alumni, students and employees. Landis encouraged attendance at the two skill building workshops offered this fall: Exploring Implicit (Unconscious) Bias and Minimizing Microaggressions. Courses involve active learning to support an inclusive campus culture. Considering the posts on BIPOC@Mines (Instagram), faculty need to prioritize connecting with students on a positive level that creates comfortable spaces for open conversations. DI&A staff are working on a bias response system to support the victim and the aggressor in bias incidents. The system is designed to assist resolution for both parties prior to elevation and escalation.

Involved discussion followed surrounding DI&A, including steps faculty can take to address Title IX issues, methods to practice being active allies/advocates, outreach for attracting voluntary participation, incorporating activities in meetings, encouraging attendance of student-led campus events, and encouraging participating in the Mines Wide Mentoring.

Landis presented partnership activities with the Senate. DI&A would like (non-monetary) sponsorship support of an event in the fall featuring the screening of a film. The film relates the story of three women with intersexual identities and situations they faced. The event includes a panel to hear from the women in the film about their experiences and solutions. In the spring, DI&A is sponsoring the making of the podcast, "Engineering Change." DI&A is also promoting diversity and inclusion in performance planning and performance management for employees. Suggestion to consider conducting something similar in Faculty Data Reviews and/or as a part of Promotion and Tenure. DI&A would like to jointly draft and distribute a letter from faculty regarding values with respect to classroom inclusion and anti-racism.

Undergraduate and Graduate Council Updates

- **Undergraduate Council Update**

Jeff King

King stated the first Undergraduate Council meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020. A primary goal is to streamline the academic approval process for proposals as a critical component of creating new programs and interdisciplinary undergraduate programs. King reported that Undergraduate Dean Dave recently released the proposed program proposal template, which requires careful review of implications, such as the language regarding sunseting programs, financial support, longevity, job security, resourcing, and success evaluation.

- **Grad Council**

Neal Sullivan

The agenda item was not discussed.

Senate 5 Pillars, etc... Planning

Andy Herring

Herring indicated work continues on the 5 Pillars. The upcoming Senate agendas have several presentations, including requests to discuss Equal Pay Equal Work and the Library budget. Discussion followed surrounding an additional official meeting and additional unofficial working meetings.

MOTION: To approve to call an official Senate meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm. By Sitchler; seconded by Handorean. No abstentions. APPROVED.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Voelker; seconded by Sitchler. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Adjourn

Andy Herring

Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2020, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, via Zoom. Please add agenda items in the Teams Working Group more than one week prior to the meeting.