

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
February 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom

**Attendees:**

**Voting Members:** 13 total (7 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Andy Herring (Chair)	P	Robin Bullock (EDS)	P	Sebnem Duzgun (MN/CS)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE & MN)
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)	P	Neal Sullivan (ME)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)						

**Other Regular Attendees and Guests**

P	Tracy Gardner (Trustee)	P	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	A	Colin Terry (Student Life)
P	Sam Spiegel (Trefny)	P	Sydney Marchando (USG Rep)	P	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Kendra Stansbury (RO)	P	Lisa Nickum (LB)

\*Michael Barankin (CBE)

**Welcome**

Andy Herring

**Provost / Academic Affairs**

Rick Holz

Holz begins by providing an update on COVID-19 cases on Mines' campus. There are currently thirty cases on-campus. Efforts are being made to assure students are following mask protocols.

Holz provides two reminders to Faculty and Senate that Academic Affairs has asked students not to be assigned large homework problems or presentations over the President's Day holiday weekend (02/13-02/16); there should be a short reminder for students in class to remain diligent in wearing face masks and social distancing. Holz states that there have been reports of students in the Student Center, CoorsTek, the Library, Brown, Coolbaugh and several additional areas on campus without masks and not social distancing.

Holz has also had a meeting with Mines department heads on Friday (2/5) on the Fall 2021 semester. Students will begin registering on April 5, 2021; Holz suggests departments have their Fall semester schedules pulled together by mid-March. There will be a five to six-week window to pull the schedule together; feedback from Faculty is welcomed. Holz had suggested to department heads that summer field sessions should be held in-person, considering social distancing, masks and other safety precautions. If students are uncomfortable with in-person field sessions, remote options are being made available to accommodate those students.

A question is asked regarding Mines staff and faculty vaccination timeframe, and if staff and faculty are no longer considered in the category Phase 1B. Holz informs Senators that Mines faculty are considered general population; President Paul Johnson met with Governor Jared Polis' office and has indicated that vaccines will be available to the general population during the summer prior to Fall semester. The 1B category is K-12 staff.

Holz states that Peter Han and his group has been working on a contract to vaccinate people on campus as soon as the vaccine is made available.

Feedback provided by the HASS faculty included skepticism on normal scheduling and face-to-face instruction in Fall 2021. The issue brought up included planning involving classroom space in order to maintain social distancing.

Holz speaks on the continuation of mask wearing and social distancing on campus, even with distribution of the vaccine in order to continue providing a safe atmosphere. Mines will continue to heed the instructions provided by the Centers for Disease Control and the state of Colorado.

Herring summarizes that there are a several items that have been considered temporary guidelines that are not considered procedures. Consideration should be made to investigate putting policies in place should there not a full return to entirely in-person teaching.

Students that do not desire returning to campus should be accommodated; there may be one section that is remote or asynchronous online teaching for these students that are unable or uncomfortable with returning to campus. JEDI will still be made available for remote and asynchronous sections to aid faculty.

Holz suggests faculty, if they have not already, take the course through the Trefny Center on how to teach asynchronously online. The ongoing goal is to provide a safe campus for faculty, staff, and students.

### **Registrar's Office**

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw begins by addressing remaining socially distanced on campus; Mines has borrowed spaces from Conference Services such as Bunker, the Green Center, and the Student Center. For social distancing to continue, these accommodations would have to remain under Mines' purview.

Myskiw suggests building the schedule as it has been done in Spring. Should there be allowance of full return to classrooms without social distancing, it is suggested that remote sections still be incorporated and accommodated during this time.

A question is asked regarding summer field camps; Holz informs Senators that department heads were suggested to maintain field sessions in-person.

Myskiw updates Senators on the new user interface of the registration platform; it is a modernized version of the current platform that is being tested out for Fall registration. The Registrar's Office has finished implementation of a project called Educational Plans that is part of the DegreeWorks suite. This tool will be used for the degree audit and is expected to be implemented in the Fall 2021 for all students. The educational planner tool will allow advisors to consult with students and create a plan of study over semester or years.

The Registrar's Office is also revising workflow for the Registration Action Form; issues are being worked on and enhancements are being added as requested by Faculty feedback.

A question is asked on the timeline for the decision on social distancing in the Fall or remaining remote; Holz states that a final decision will be reached end of February, at the latest. This then provides departments two to three weeks to communicate and submit schedules to the Registrar. This may be pushed earlier, as registration is expected to start April 5.

Myskiw informs Senators that, if a decision on Fall scheduling is not reached, this will delay student registration.

Holz encourages Faculty to provide feedback on the Fall scheduling.

### **Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2021**

Andy Herring

**MOTION:** To approve the Faculty Senate Minutes of January 26, 2021 with added minor edits to names by Handorean, seconded by Bullock. No abstentions. APPROVED.

### **Committee Updates**

Faculty Senate Secretary

Alina Handorean

Handorean informs Senators of the process of selecting new Senators for Faculty Senate will begin mid-March; additional details will be provided later.

The Distinguished Lecturer Committee will be notifying Senate of their recommendation for 2022 and Senators will begin the review process upon receipt. Applications of the Distinguished Lecturer recommendation closed 2/1.

Mines@150 Student Signature Experience Project Process

Robin Bullock

Bullock begins by introducing Senate to the drafted ad hoc committee proposal for the Student Signature Rewards; the process should be moved into the implementation phase and close out the proposal phase with the creation of the committee.

In order to avoid bias, the committee would be chaired by an individual who has not provided a proposal or accepted a proposal.

Bullock informs Senators that this committee will provide periodic reporting to the Foundation as well as President Johnson on how the program is going. Each proposal will have a plan of action or plan of implementation and will report progress in a supplied timeframe. Holz will be included in the progress reports.

Spiegel states that the Trefny Center will be reaching out to the twelve awardees to coordinate assessment support and integrations of pedagogy for those doing online pieces.

Herring suggests the integration of a program manager for the committee who will be responsible for the coordination of money and that it is being spent appropriately. Suggested program managers range from administrative staff from the Foundation, Mines' Academic Affairs, or Senate.

**MOTION:** To approve the formation of the Faculty Senate ad hoc committee for Student Signature Awards by Sullivan; seconded by Figueroa. 1 abstention. APPROVED.

Norrgran volunteers to chair the ad hoc Student Signature Awards committee.

Research Council

Faculty Senate Committee

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper begins by updating Senators on the seven Research Council subcommittees' progress.

The Faculty Research Awards subcommittee has six junior and five senior nominations; these have been reviewed and the subcommittee is currently asking for letters of recommendation.

Research Council is in discussion of hosting a Research Council lecture series; suggested progression would be to ask the winners of the Research Awards to provide a lecture in the semester.

Kuiper states that the roles of non-tenure/tenure track researchers on campus have been well outlined within the Faculty Handbook. A topic of discussion within the Research Council includes the role of research associates. This role requires two years of postdoctoral experience or the equivalent; no explicit statement of requiring a PhD. Departments are then hiring various research associates that have a master's degree and argue for these individuals having relevant equivalent experience.

Kuiper also states that the mentoring subcommittee will be writing up recommendations of mentoring and how it will be evaluated.

The Research Council is also working on changes to the Academic Faculty Bylaws; these changes will be introduced to Faculty Senate later.

Kuiper informs Senators that there has been discussion with the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer (VPRTT) on managing a more accessible website for facilities on campus. The current website contains an Excel worksheet with all equipment on campus over \$50,000. The most recent update has been the inclusion of departments related to this equipment. Council has discussed with VPRTT on using the system that Mines' Facilities uses through Trailhead.

One of the sub-subcommittees of the Research Council is working on shared facilities and lab support which is concurrent with the work being done in the Research Advisory Board. A small equipment funds sub-subcommittee is working on a stipend of \$30k-40k for Faculty to apply for small pieces of equipment through VPRTT.

Survey Committee  
Faculty Senate Committee

Robin Bullock

Bullock updates Senators on a Survey Committee meeting with Jill Murphy in Human Resources, Jason Hughes in Communications, and Tricia Douthit in Institutional Research.

Bullock reports the Every Oredigger survey summary from Hughes: 80% of those responding found Mines was living up to the Oredigger Promise and nearly all respondents believe that the Mines staff, faculty and students should live the Promise.

Bullock reports the ModerThink summary from Murphy: over 60% participation with discussion centered around the ability to be informed by the ModernThink dataset in order to update/modify and make decisions about moving forward on a Faculty Senate survey.

Bullock reports the Mines Survey Procurement summary from Douthit: Mines will no longer be financially supporting the use of Survey Monkey by the end of the Spring 2021 semester; Mines will migrate to Question Pro. If Faculty is using Survey Monkey and receiving funding for this elsewhere, this non-Mines funding can be used to continue the use of Survey Monkey.

Bullock moves on the discussion topics brought up within the Survey Committee; Faculty are requesting survey data from the Faculty Senate's consistent set of questions and there is interest in these data sets. A question was raised on whether this survey should proceed as it was not implemented in the last semester.

Megan Sanders with the Trefny Center has volunteered to look over the questions to remove potential bias;

these questions are currently being evaluated for further modification. Determination of implementation of this survey rests with Faculty Senate.

A comment is raised on the utility of the survey and if any issue arises within a survey how will this be handled and managed.

Bullock provides an example of the data set documentation benefits; the previous ModernThink survey mentioned a necessity for non-tenure/tenure track representation and with this came the creation of the ad hoc Faculty Senate Non-Tenure/Tenure track subcommittee.

#### Core Curriculum Committee

Alexis Sitchler

Ad Hoc Committee

Sitchler states that the Core Curriculum Committee has reached out across campus for targeted review of the drafted learning outcomes. The current version of these learning outcomes was drafted over a couple of years ago; the current committee is providing adjustments. These have been disseminated across campus for Faculty to view. Should Senate agree, a full Faculty email will be sent out for feedback and that all Faculty have access to the documents.

Sitchler informs Senators that comments are expected early March; if feedback indicates a desire for discussion, information and question and answer sessions will be held in the future.

Should any feedback arise; Sitchler invites this to be directed to Sitchler, Vibhuti Dave, or Joseph Horan.

Once communication has been established and feedback received from campus, revisions will be made, and the learning outcomes will arrive at Faculty Senate through Undergraduate Council for formal review and formal adoption.

Sitchler and Dave have met with over half of Mines' department heads on providing an opportunity for what they believe should be noted while moving through the proposal process.

#### Non-Tenure/Tenure Track Committee

Joseph Horan

Ad Hoc Committee

Horan informs Senators of the course of action for the ad hoc committee; there will not be any major action items for Senate to vote or act upon. Depending on the discussions within the committee, a decision will be made to create a permanent committee.

#### Procedures Committee

John McCray

Ad Hoc Committee

McCray states that an email has been sent to department heads, the Provost, the Handbook Committee and others to compile information and recommendations to be suggested to the Faculty Handbook Committee.

The Procedures Committee will recommend updates on behalf of Faculty for the Procedures.

Holz briefs Senate on the discussion he had had with the Faculty Handbook Committee; the Handbook requires a large overhaul. The main question being addressed by the Handbook Committee is what requires

placement within the Handbook and defining what the Faculty Handbook encompasses. Holz states that HR policies have been identified within the Handbook that are not needed. Holz suggests this be an 18-month to two-year process in which a subcommittee revises and overlooks the entirety of the Handbook in detail.

## Briefings, Information Items and Updates

### Undergraduate Council Updates

Jeff King

*\*Approved Undergraduate Council new courses and course changes have been added to the end of this agenda as informational FYI-only items.*

#### 1.1 CHEMICAL and BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 12/8; UGC: 1/27]

1 program change: BS-CHE: BS in Chemical Engineering

*These changes surround double-counting in the 4+1 combined bachelor's and master's degrees. CBE is one of the few departments that does not currently allow double counting so this change in text has been added for the students' benefit. This does not include the four required core courses. Minor updates have been done to the program elective lists.*

*Barankin informs Councilors that the double counting was brought to the attention of Council due to this being a change in the Catalog language for undergraduate students. The double counting had not been present in the Catalog previously. It has been done to parallel what is already in the graduate Catalog. **Championed by Michael Barankin.***

**MOTION:** To approve the 1 program change to Chemical and Biological Engineering, BS-CHE: BS in Chemical Engineering as championed by Michael Barankin by Horan, seconded by King. No abstentions.

**APPROVED.**

King states that the Undergraduate Council is in the process of paneling ad hoc committees to overlook broader issues that have presented themselves to the Council.

### Graduate Council Updates

Neal Sullivan

#### 2.1 HYDROLOGIC SCIENCE and ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 12/9; GC: 2/3]

1 program change: MSPHD-HY: MS & PhD – Hydrologic Sci & Eng

*This update expands the number of courses that students can take under the Hydrology, Policy, and Management (HPM) track. The course list is being expanded for two reasons: (1) in response to combined-degree students who want to complete their HSE degree and the HPM track in two semesters and need more course options; (2) to keep pace with the growing number of social science-based courses being developed on campus that are relevant to water professionals. **Championed by David Benson.***

**MOTION:** To approve the 1 program change to Hydrologic Science and Engineering, MSPHD-HY: MS & PhD – Hydrologic Sci & Eng as championed by David Benson by Sullivan, seconded by Sitchler. No abstentions.

**APPROVED.**

Sullivan updates Senators on subcommittees' activity in Graduate Council. The Council is in the process of reviewing an advisor and advisee expectations document. Consideration is being made to distribute this to the graduate program managers in different departments and programs as a resource. This document will be provided to Senate later for review and approval.

Sullivan addresses updates from the Graduate Council's stipends subcommittee and the interdisciplinary subcommittee.

Herring informs Senators that stipends are discussed and voted on by departments; these are outlined within department budgets. The Graduate Council subcommittee is looking to increase the general minimum student stipend.

Holz has discussed with Dean Tim Barbari on graduate stipends in order to evaluate Mines' competitiveness. If the base stipend requires an increase, this can be proposed. Departments can vote to increase graduate student stipends, but their budget will not be increased which can pose deficiencies in other areas of that department's budget.

Graduate student stipends are being interpreted for review by Academic Affairs to provide a more straightforward process.

Sullivan introduces discussion from the interdisciplinary subcommittee to further introduced representation of interdisciplinary programs on Council. A comment is made on representation in both the Undergraduate Council and Research Council and that this requires a broader conversation on the membership of the Councils and the definition of membership.

Due to the increase in interdisciplinary programs and the stability of said programs the Senate discusses the efficacy of providing additional membership, administrative support, or formation of an ad hoc committee for interdisciplinary program representation.

#### **Adjourn**

Andy Herring

**MOTION:** To adjourn the February 9, 2021 Faculty Senate meeting by Sitchler, seconded by Sullivan. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:02 pm.

Next Meeting: 23 February, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoon. Please send all items for agenda to [mgreen1@mines.edu](mailto:mgreen1@mines.edu) one week prior to the meeting.

#### **Approved Undergraduate New Courses**

CSCI478: Introduction to Bioinformatics

#### **Approved Undergraduate Course Changes**

GEGN307: Petrology

GEGN401: Mineral Deposits