

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 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

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

Welcome

Andy Herring

Herring begins by briefing Senators on the structure of the agenda, and centering the mid-meeting discussion around COVID-19.

Provost / Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Holz states that there will be another Town Hall meeting in April to further discuss the important aspects of Mines@150. Academic Affairs is still working on determining which specific topics to present. Academic Affairs is pleased with the amount of Faculty engaged and working on Mines@150.

Holz reports around 11 COVID-19 cases on campus. Due to the colder weather in Texas, COVID-19 test results were not received; some data remains missing as of 2/23.

Holz congratulates Faculty and staff on maintain COVID procedures and helping to reduce the number of cases on campus. The Library has had some issues with students not following the OreDigger promise and have been reminding students to do so.

Holz informs Senators that, should the vaccines become unavailable, or variants emerge, Mines will resume online and remote teaching to maintain the safety of those on campus.

A comment is made on Faculty that are in a position in which they do not feel safe or if vaccines are not available, and that there should be an option to manage dual modality in the classroom for those faculty. Holz responds the JEDI program will be maintained into the Fall to accommodate Faculty in those positions.

A question is asked regarding vaccinations being required for the student body. Holz states that due to the experimental nature of the COVID-19 vaccine, the university cannot mandate vaccination. Mines is currently looking into different companies to distribute vaccinations on campus once widely available.

Holz reports President Johnson having argued alongside other Colorado university presidents on higher education falling within the 1B.2 phase of vaccine distribution alongside K-12 educators. The governor has denied this request due to the importance of moving students back into the classroom to alleviate childcare stressors.

Holz states that flexibility will be provided to Faculty that are unable to provide face-to-face scheduling. A question is raised on Faculty providing office hours during the Fall semester; Holz responds that this will remain up to the Faculty member should they choose in-person office hours or remote or a mixture of the

two. Holz encourages Faculty to engage in the asynchronous and remote teaching courses offered by the Trefny Center.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

As of the 2/23 meeting, Myskiw reports the Registrar's Office still working with Academic Affairs on the Fall scheduling. It is expected to be in place by the following week in preparation for student registration starting April 2021.

Myskiw has spoken with Mines department heads and Deans on feedback regarding the Fall schedule. The two options provided are to continue with the Spring 2021 format or to push for a fully in-person Fall semester. This face-to-face method will be in ordinance with the Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 guidelines as well as those prescribed by Jefferson County.

Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2021

Andy Herring

MOTION: To approve the Faculty Senate Minutes of February 9, 2021 by Handorean; seconded by Figueroa. No abstentions. **APPROVED.**

COVID-19 Open Discussion; Faculty Effects

Field Sessions

Kuiper begins the discussion on department field sessions and the frustration of creating remote variants. Kuiper explains the current planning for students without vaccines is to create a bubble in which students cannot leave the camp for six weeks and field managers bring groceries. Faculty are with the students the full seven days versus the usual five to six days, including driving students from one field site to another. In addition, Faculty and Teaching Assistants will need to quarantine for 11 days prior to teaching field camps.

Holz responds that there is no requirement for field sessions to be in person and if there is not a way to provide a safe environment to do so, field sessions can be conducting in remote.

Field sessions are not counted into the Faculty teaching load; this becomes an additional stressor to Faculty with COVID-19 related commitments. Kuiper brings forward suggestions on providing a form of recognition for teaching field camps on FDR or another form. Kuiper identifies field camps as a natural student signature experience to be sustained and supported.

Discussion continues; adding recognition for field sessions in Faculty teaching load—Holz will discuss with Department Heads and Deans.

FDR

Herring addresses Faculty concerns regarding upcoming FDR evaluations and how this has been shifted to accommodate COVID-19 and remote teaching.

Holz states that accommodations are being made for Faculty rankings during this time and are not being considered as stringently. If there are extenuating circumstances for a significantly lower score, these will be accommodated as well. All the data being collected from the previous academic year are being evaluated with the pandemic in mind.

Regarding expectations around teaching, research, and service: Holz expects Faculty to remain engaged in all three with the understanding that these have been impacted by the pandemic due to social distancing and general health concerns.

A comment is made on impacts on research from the pandemic being unequal; there will be layers to evaluations. A suggestion is made for a statement that established equity across the evaluation that extends beyond the discretion of an individual department head and account for differences in performance impacted by the pandemic.

Report from Mines Defined Contribution Plan Committee

Neal Sullivan

Sullivan provides a quick report as the Faculty Senate representative to the Mines Defined Contribution Plan committee. Sullivan reports a decline in Mines benefits over the past five years. A change was made in 2017 from the defined plan PERA. This change was advised by a local Denver company called Innovest.

This change was to provide financial saving for Mines, with poorer benefits for Mines employees. The new change resulted in a voluntary benefit plan called Mines 403(b). This plan provided four separate providers (AXA/Equitable, TIAA/CREF, MetLife, VALIC). This change did not result in financial benefit for Mines.

A suggestion is made to resume the older benefits model of one provider; the multiple providers has led to a decrease in benefits participants and the participants have not returned. An additional comment is made that this falls within Faculty Senate purview and should be considered for further discussion.

Committee Updates


Senate Secretary

Alina Handorean

Handorean provides a brief overview of future Faculty Senate plans.

The Distinguished Lecturer Committee has provided Senate with a list of recommendations for the 2022 Distinguished Lecturer. Three candidates have been provided to Senators with letters of recommendation. These will be reviewed, and an electronic ballot will be provided for Senators to elect the next 2022 lecturer. The results will be validated in a future Senate meeting.

Handorean reports to Senate a changing membership request from the University Library and Library Committee. The current member, Anna Seiffert is no longer with Mines and a recommendation has been made to appoint Patrick Farrell as the member replacement.

At the recommendation of the University Librarian and according to the Faculty Senate Bylaws, to approve the replacement of Anna Seiffert with Patrick Farrell within the Library Committee by Handorean, seconded by an. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Faculty Procedures Review and Recommendations Committee

John McCray

Ad Hoc Committee

McCray informs Senators of a drafted document for the creation of a Faculty ombudsperson which is being circulated within the committee for edits.

The committee has identified a need for clearer guidance on Faculty Grievance Procedures; there is also drive to remove items within the Faculty Handbook that are governed by state or federal law and are not subject to review by the Faculty.

McCray has discussed with constituents within the committee and Academic Affairs regarding close review of the Faculty Handbook and re-imagining items within the text and what should be contained within the Handbook. Examples include Faculty ombudsperson, Faculty Grievance Procedures, removal of policies related to administrative staff, addition of manuals such as the Procedures manual or a Board of Trustees manual. Due to the sensitive nature of the Faculty Handbook, additional time will be needed to provide a substantive and detailed review of the Handbook.

McCray prefaces that this committee will not be creating policies but providing feedback and identifying what needs to be done and what has been recommended by the Faculty and other groups on campus. McCray and the Faculty Procedures ad hoc committee has discussed with smaller groups on campus as well as department heads individually to create a conversation and receive multiple perspectives.

Faculty Senate will look to obtaining feedback on the extension of the Faculty Procedures Review committee lifetime, as of now the committee will continue as a Senate-designated working group which does not require a formal vote.

Survey Committee

Robin Bullock

Faculty Senate Committee

Bullock provides a summary of the recommendation created by the Survey committee; the background of the committee is to collect the voice of Faculty on campus and due to COVID-19 this has been halted. The committee suggests the two previous analyses of the leadership group and the campus climate survey be made available to everyone via the Faculty Senate webpage and notify Faculty that the Survey committee will remain paused to evaluate the results of the ModernThink survey and to provide a survey break for Faculty.

This will allow the committee to review the ModernThink survey information, official campus conversations, and broader topics for Mines.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation provided by the Survey Committee to provide a note to the broader campus Faculty on the work of the Survey committee and the pause in distribution of campus surveys by Horan, seconded by Sitchler. **APPROVED.**

Research Council

Yvette Kuiper

Faculty Senate Committee

Kuiper introduces the proposed changes from the Research Council for the Bylaws. Research Council proposes edits to the membership of the Council. Half of the departments for odd and even years are listed within the Bylaws individually; the change proposes separation into portfolios for even and odd years.

Research Faculty are to be proposed by the Deans in communication with the department head in their portfolios.

Membership of interdisciplinary programs has remained the same and will be reviewed again in the future.

Research Council had required attendance of a representative of the Research Advisory Board which Kuiper reports causes problems due to Councilors being elected by the department, and if there is not a representative from the Research Advisory Board this would require the department to find a representative that holds this membership on the Board. The revised bylaws state that if there is no Research Advisory Board member already on Research Council, the Research Council chair will attend the monthly Research Advisory Board meetings.

A comment is raised on the change of Research Council chair being two years, rather than one, despite committee and council chairs having one-year appointments. Kuiper states this is to maintain continuity through Research Council. Some issues brought to this Council are not resolved in one year.

MOTION: To approve the proposed changes to the Research Council bylaws by Kuiper, seconded by Handorean. 2 abstentions. **APPROVED.**

Online Standards Committee

Cynthia Norrgran

Ad Hoc Committee

Norrgran presents a final proposal for the formation of the Online Standards committee; Faculty Senate suggests distribution for feedback and return for an official vote. The working group can continue without official Senate endorsement.

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 COMPUTER SCIENCE

[status: CIM 1/6]

1 program change: BS in Computer Science

1. CS and Business Track: added EBG230 to list of business electives.

2. CS and Robotics & Intelligent Systems Track: updated focus area courses to provide flexibility in student's degree path. Focus areas divided into (1) Perception, (2) Cognition, (3) Interaction. Areas contain two courses. Students can take both courses in one area and one course from the other two areas.

*3. CS and Space Track: Proposal driven by high demand of computer scientists in the aerospace industry. The curriculum was chosen after consulting with CS@Mines faculty, Director of Center for Space Resources at Mines, and several Lockheed Martin software engineers. Unique in its focus on interdisciplinary knowledge related to aerospace engineering and space resources. **Championed by Jeffrey Paone.***

1.2 PETROLEUM ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 12/2]

1 program change: BS-PTE: BS in Petroleum Engineering

The Petroleum Engineering department in cooperation with the Trefny Center initiated a review of the petroleum engineering curriculum in Fall 2019. The goals include reduction of course rigidity; determination of material additions, deletions, and potential sequencing options; incorporation of technological capabilities such as online courses or other pedagogical approaches; explicit linking of courses to each other and documentation for staff, faculty and especially students.

*Learning outcomes have been identified (total of seven). A determination of "phase changes" are being established. **Championed by Linda Battalora.***

1.3 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 1/6]

1 program change: MIN-BMECHE: Minor in Biomechanical Engineering

Proposed change is making CBEN120 optional/elective course with no other changes proposed.

Championed by Oyvind Nilsen.

1.4 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING and COMPUTER SCIENCE

[status: CIM 1/6]

1 program change: MIN-RIS: Minor in Robotics and Intelligent Systems

*Course updates to provide flexibility and align with robotic knowledge areas. **Championed by Jeffrey Paone.***

MOTION: To approve the Undergraduate curriculum items 1.1 through 1.4 in an omnibus Faculty Senate vote by King, seconded by Bullock. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Undergraduate Council Ad Hoc Subcommittee Formation

King announces the formation of ad hoc subcommittees within Undergraduate Council to address items brought up by the undergraduate Dean Vhibuti Dave. These subcommittees will discuss consistency in grading, undergraduate student workload and course approval processing.

These subcommittees have had not extensive time to discuss, but notes will be provided from King to Senate in the future.

The subcommittee addressing consistency in grading will discuss the plus and minus grading system, student workload will consider the definitions of Review and Finals week as well as course load expectations, and the course approval processing subcommittee will work with the Registrar on rolling course approval processing rather than a firm deadline.

Graduate Council Updates

Neal Sullivan

2.1 **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

[status: CIM 1/19; GC: 2/17]

1 program change: MSPHD-CS: MS & PhD – Computer Science

*Clarifying language on specific prerequisite courses for admission to the program and procedures for requesting the Qualifying Exam. **Championed by Dorothy Cheng.***

2.2 **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

[status: CIM 1/7 & 1/17]

4 program changes to Mechanical Engineering:

CERTMSPHD-SPACE: CERT, MS, & PhD – Space Resources

*Program updates include the addition of clarification about the PhD program including process and expectations for the Qualifying Exams, Dissertation Research Proposals and Defense and Required number of Publications and Presentations. Addition of new courses to the SPRS Elective list. Text updates throughout for clarification. **Championed by Angel Abbud-Madrid.***

CERTMS-ADVMAN: CERT & MS – Advanced Manufacturing

*Changes to language in Graduate Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing to Additive Manufacturing, changes to core requirements of Additive Manufacturing, changes to language in Masters of Science in Advanced Manufacturing (non-thesis), added selection on electives, language changes to Mines' Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Degree program and electives. **Championed by Craig Brice.***

XCR-ADVMO: Graduate Certificate – Smart Manufacturing

*Language change. Course change: EBG576 (removed), addition of ELECT to allow students to select from courses in Advanced Manufacturing Electives **Championed by Craig Brice.***

MSPHD-MECH: MS & PhD – Mechanical Engineering

*Major edits to the structure of the Mechanical Engineering PhD qualifying exam to streamline the exam, improve consistency across the department, expand qualifying exam options to better reflect the academic needs of the department's PhD students. **Championed by Owen Hildreth.***

2.3 ECONOMICS and BUSINESS

[status: CIM 1/18]

1 program change: MS-ETM-NT: Engineering and Technology Management (ETM) Master of Science

*Deletion of electives: EBGN 515, 567, 573, 5XX from “Technology Management and Innovation” list. These courses have not been offered in about 5 years. Added EBGN 578 to this list. **Championed by Tulay Flamand***

2.4 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 1/13]

1 program change: MSCR-SEPS: Smart-Grid, Power Electronics, and Electrical Power Systems
Language changes, no substantive changes to the program itself. **Championed by Dorothy Cheng.**

2.5 APPLIED MATHEMATICS and STATISTICS

[status: CIM 1/14]

1 program change: MSPHD-AMS: MS & PhD – Applied Math/Statistics

*Change to required coursework and language within the program. Courses changed: Specialty in Computational & Applied Mathematics; MATH501 (removed), Specialty in Statistics; MATH530 (removed), MATH560 (added), Specialty in Computational & Applied Mathematics; MATH501 (removed), MATH588 (added), Specialty in Statistics; MATH530 (removed), MATH 560 and 588 (added). **Championed by Karin Leiderman.***

2.6 CIVIL and ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 1/12 & 1/13]

2 program changes to Civil and Environmental Engineering:

MSPHD-CEE: MS & PhD – Civil Eng & Environmental Eng

*Language clarification, addition, and removal to core courses in **Structural Engineering**: CEEN543 (removed), CEEN545 (added), CEEN533 (added). **Championed by Reza Hedayat.***

XCR-ENVMOD: Graduate Certificate in Environmental Modeling

*Number of course credits changed from 12 to 9. The elective course is eliminated to reduce the required number of courses needed for the certificate program to make it more appealing, accessible, and affordable with better student retention for the timely completion of the certificate program in one year. **Championed by Reza Hedayat.***

MOTION: To approve the Graduate curriculum items 2.1 through 2.6 in an omnibus Faculty Senate vote by Sullivan, seconded by King. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Sullivan updates Senators on a document being drafted within Graduate Council on Graduate Advising expectations. This will be a document of guidelines rather than policy. This document will circulate through Graduate Council, the various graduate program managers and their respective Faculty and students prior to processing within Senate.

Additional Business and Discussion

A suggestion is made to provide the Undergraduate and Graduate Council meeting minutes to the Faculty Senate webpage to provide transparency to Faculty and references for the Senate updates. This will be considered in a vote in a future Senate meeting.

Adjourn

Andy Herring

Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoon. Please send all items for agenda to mgreen1@mines.edu one week prior to the meeting.

Approved Undergraduate New Courses:

PEGN282: Professional Skills 1
PEGN382: Professional Skills 2
PEGN482: Professional Skills 3
CEEN315: Civil and Environmental Engineering Tolls
CSCI295: Industry Exploration
CSCI395: Industry Exploration II
MATH470: Mathematical Modeling of Spatial Processes in Biology

Approved Undergraduate Course Changes:

PEGN311: Drilling Engineering
PEGN201: Petroleum Engineering Fundamentals
CEEN311: Mechanics of Materials
CHGC336: Analytical Chemistry
CHGN337: Analytical Chemistry Laboratory
CSCI400: Principles of Programming Languages
GPGN455: Earthquake Seismology