

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 March 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)	A	Neal Sullivan (ME)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)						

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Welcome

Andy Herring

Provost / Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Holz addresses the announcement to Faculty for on-campus clinic for COVID-19 vaccinations that will be taking place Thursday (3/25) and Friday (3/26). The latest sign-up information reports 600 individuals with there being 900 available doses. These additional vaccines are being opened to teaching assistants, Sodexo employees, and other student facing groups on-campus.

A question is raised for graduate students receiving vaccinations. Many graduate students will fall under the next phase unless a student is working as a teaching assistant or research assistant. Some students have also had the opportunity to seek vaccines outside of Mines.

Holz states the second vaccination clinic will be provided towards the end of April to provide the allotted 28-days between shots. There is discussion of an in-person graduation ceremony; expectations are to hold the ceremony outside with three undergraduate ceremonies where 2020 graduates can have a ceremony held.

A question is raised for adjunct faculty receiving the vaccination; Holz states that the expectation would be that all faculty including adjuncts would have the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Holz reports 34 active COVID-19 cases on-campus, 13 of those are resident students. The majority are experiencing very few to mild symptoms.

A question is asked for reporting outside COVID-19 vaccinations; Spiegel states that vaccine reports can be uploaded to the Health Portal in Trailhead under the immunizations tab, but this is not a requirement for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Peter Han's team has been looking to using the remaining vaccinations available on-campus for those participating in in-person field sessions. This will already include faculty and teaching assistants that will be assisting in these field sessions.

Hiring Process Questions

Herring addresses a concern on-campus regarding the hiring process for temporary positions; Herring asks if rumors on campus can be quelled with additional information.

Holz states that Stacie Altman has been working closely with the Attorney General and Ann Walker with the Mines' Legal team to find what can and cannot be done under the Equal Pay Law. Altman will provide information to Senate.

A comment is raised on opening positions on DiggerNet for a minimum of five days and interviewing those individuals; this was a definitive change different from previous processing. The process between departments may also be different and not standardized between hiring managers.

A second comment is made regarding Mines Undergraduate Research Fellowship (MURF) and applications to fellowship; Holz states that the fellowship process is separate but Senate encourages reviewing how fellowships are being processed.

DiggerNet applications do not apply to graduate TA or RA opportunities, if a graduate student intends on working in the library, tutoring, giving tours, or working in admissions then this process is applicable.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Registration begins April 5; messages have been sent to students and faculty on the upgraded user interface that students will experience during registration. This update includes a visual scheduling component and additional tools to assist students in planning schedules.

The Registrar's Office is in the final stages of implementing Degree Works which affects undergraduates' transfer credit component. This component will allow incoming prospective students to run What If scenarios with transferred credits and understand how these credits fit into their degree plan at Mines.

A tool for faculty has been established that provides an advising profile of a student. This profile includes a summary of information on a student alongside a photo. Once schedules are open, faculty will be able to open this summary and view photo rosters of students registered within a class.

Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2021

Andy Herring

MOTION: To approve the Faculty Senate minutes of March 9, 2021 by Handorean, seconded by Horan. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

Committee Updates

Senate Secretary

Alina Handorean

Research Council Bylaws: Chair term language revision
Research Excellence Awardees Result Verification

An electronic ballot was sent to Senators on revision of the Research Council section of the Academic Faculty Bylaws to revert the language change of two-year chair term back to one-year chair term. The second vote addressed the Research Excellence Awardees verification. Nine out of thirteen Senators voted on the ballot, quorum present.

Results:

Request to change the Research Council section of the Academic Faculty Bylaws to the original language form: "A Senator appointed by the Senate for a two-year term as Chair (current)" to "A Senator appointed by the Senate for a renewable one-year term as Chair (proposed and original)"

- 9 YES (unanimous vote)

Research Council would like to propose the following Research Excellence award winners:

- 8 Votes for Senior Winner: Robert Braun (ME) / 8 Votes for Junior Winner: Mohsen Asle Zaeem (ME)
- 1 abstention

MOTION: To validate the results of the online ballot on the Research Council section of the Academic Faculty Bylaws and winners of the Research Excellence Awards by Handorean, seconded by Kuiper. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

Instruction Effectiveness Committee

Alina Handorean

Ad Hoc Committee

Faculty Senate Taskforce on Evaluation of Instruction Effectiveness provides an update. Initiated in Fall 2018, report outlines actions completed in 2019.

Handorean outlines the taskforce objectives: Define effective instruction at Mines, determine what can and should be evaluated to determine instruction effectiveness, and identify tools to allow for assessment of instruction effectiveness. Tasks one and two have been completed as of Spring and Fall 2019; the third objective of identifying tools is still in progress.

Task 1 of defining effective instruction at Mines was worked on by the committee and the Trefny Center. Highly effective teaching is supported by four pillars: student support, focused learning, reflection, and intentional design. This was shared with the campus at-large at the Mines Engineering Learning Conference for feedback.

Tasks 2 and 3 measure teaching effectiveness by source of evidence. The sources of evidence include students, peers, and self. The following methods are currently being used during a course: midcourse student feedback survey and peer observation. The following are used at the end of a course: end of course student evaluations and a self-reflection survey.

Feedback provided by participants:

1. Simplify the Observation Tool
2. Streamline the process as much as possible
3. Assure observations are interpreted appropriately

Request is made to push the Spring 2021 pilot addressing feedback to Fall 2021.

Handorean provides survey results from the Spring 2021 Midterm feedback and open-ended comments from Faculty. There is concern for the low response rate, but there is appreciation for the survey and the opportunity to make changes to courses.

MOTION: To approve the continuation and finalization of the Instruction Effectiveness Committee tasks and present results to Senate in Spring 2022 by Handorean, seconded by Sitchler. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

MOTION: To approve Robin Bullock as Co-Chair Faculty Senate Representative and Alina Handorean as continuing Faculty member of the committee by Handorean, seconded by Sitchler. 11 in favor. 0 opposed. 1 abstention. APPROVED.

Research Council

Yvette Kuiper

Faculty Senate Committee

Kuiper reports the Small Instrumentation proposal is in discussion and receiving positive feedback from VPRTT; budget details being refined.

Core Curriculum Committee

Alexis Sitchler

Ad Hoc Committee

Sitchler reports Core Curriculum committee is finalizing language and learning outcomes. Once feedback is compiled, the official proposal will be made to Faculty Senate. The Committee is looking at best practices to open engagement with Faculty on the proposal process.

Faculty Procedures Committee

John McCray

Ad Hoc Committee

McCray reports committee members as having been assigned every department for discussion and Faculty feedback. Once the committee meets to review this feedback, it will be reported to Faculty Senate.

Student Signature Experience

Cynthia Norrgran

Ad Hoc Committee

Norrgran reports the committee's first meeting as introductions and outlining a Teams working group for updates, reports, budgets, and timelines.

Online Standards Committee

Cynthia Norrgran

Ad Hoc Committee

Norrgran has begun sending emails to individuals participating and Faculty that have been through the Trefny Center training programs; this is being done to fill the committee with members.

Briefings, Information Items and Updates

Herring clarifies the structure of Faculty Senate meetings and executive meetings. Faculty Senate consists of regular meetings and working group meetings. If Faculty are interested in speaking with executives, invitations can be made during off-meeting Tuesdays. These meetings are held for two hours on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

Faculty IDP Recommendations Draft

Comments are being accumulated, feedback has been received from several IGP program chairs. Senate will also solicit feedback and comments from Academic Affairs and the Deans.

Senate Newsletter

Senators are considering ways to format the newsletter for email readability.

Undergraduate Council

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 PETROLEUM ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 2/2; UGC: 3/10]

1 program change: MINASI-PE: Petroleum Engineering

*Update to course list to reflect approved new courses and course changes. [Replacement of deactivated course PEGN102 with PEGN201]. **Championed by Linda Battalora.***

MOTION: To approve the program change to the minor area of special interest in Petroleum Engineering by King, seconded by Horan. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

Undergraduate Council Subcommittee Updates

King summarizes updates from the Undergraduate Council subcommittees; consistency in grading is addressing comments and concerns for plus and minus grading. Senate will receive the subcommittee's completed recommendation for approval.

The student workload subcommittee is drafting recommendation on exam timing, definition of exam week, and Review and Finals week policies.

Graduate Council

Neal Sullivan

Catalog Changes

Update is made by Green in Graduate Council chair's absence. Catalog changes have been presented to Senators on Probation language and Non-Degree student Catalog language. All changes have been addressed and approved by Graduate Council; introduced by Dean Barbari.

The probation section has added language that provides discretionary dismissal by the graduate Dean when considering part-time versus full-time students. Probation was added to a student's transcript and was not removed when satisfactory performance was accomplished, this has been changed. The semester of probation will remain, but following semesters reflecting academic performance will be expunged following the successful completion of a remedial plan.

The non-degree student section addresses non-degree students being allowed no more than three credits used toward a post-baccalaureate or graduate degree and no more than nine toward a master's or doctoral degree.

Recommendations and comments will be directed to Dean Barbari prior to Senate voting on these changes.

New Business

Andy Herring

A comment is made addressing the university hiring process for large-scale companies; if the companies do not perform sufficiently this creates an issue of equity for Faculty that have put time into changes and financial issues. A suggestion is made to consider the procedure of hiring or having oversight of this procedure that impacts Faculty directly.

Human Resources is analyzing the data of the ModernThink survey and the Equal Pay for Equal Work survey; Holz explains that the consultant that had been hired provided insufficient data which has caused frustration. Finance and Human Resources are in the process of redoing this analysis.

Once data has been received, there is a \$1.5 million pool in budget to provide increases to faculty that are deemed underpaid based on this analysis and data.

Adjourn

Andy Herring

This meeting concluded at 3:44pm.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is April 14, 2021 via Zoom. Please send all agenda items to mgreen1@mines.edu 1 week prior to the meeting.

Approved New Undergraduate Courses

PAGN245: Slackline

PAGN286: SRC – Group Fitness

PAGN287: SRC – Workouts