

Colorado School of Mines – UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 September 23, 2020 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 19 total (10 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Jeff King (chair)	P	Becky LaFrancois (EB)	P	Mike Nicholas (AMS)	P	Jeff Schowalter (EE)
P	Michael Barankin (CBE)	P	Derrick Hudson (HASS)	P	Corinne Packard (MME)	P	Nicole Smith (MN)
P	Dylan Domaille (CH)	P	Ge Jin (GP)	P	Jeff Paone (CS)	A	Bruce Trudgill (GE)
P	Bill Eustes (PE)	P	Hongyan Liu (CEE)	A	Oyvind Nilsen (ME)	P	Sydney Marchando (USG)
P	Gyasi Evans (LB)	P	Carrie McClelland (EDS)	P	Todd Ruskell (PH)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

A	Fran Aguilar (MS)	P	Dixie Cirillo (PA)	A	Jennie Kenney (AA)	A	Ben Moore (CS, EE, ME)
A	Amy Argyris (CASA)	P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Jane Ko (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO) *Kendra
A	Justin Bush (CEE)	P	Jen Drumm (CASA)	A	Cheryl Medford (GE)	P	Terri Snyder (PE)
P	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Katie Ludwin (CASA)	P	Jaime Bachmeier		

Welcome

Jeff King

Approval of Minutes

Jeff King

MOTION: To approve minutes of September 9, 2020 by Barankin; seconded by McClelland. No abstentions. APPROVED.

King clarified who functioned as the voting members of Undergraduate Council according to the bylaws. Generally, 1 vote per program, plus 1 vote for the Library and 1 vote for Undergraduate Student Government. There are regular attendees of UGC who are not voting members.

Briefings and Information Items

- **Office of Undergraduate Studies**

Vibhuti Dave

No new briefings but Dave was interested in feedback on the new program proposal template introduced at the previous meeting. This discussion is under Miscellaneous Business.

- **Registrar**

Paul Myskiw

Kendra Stansbury (Assistant Registrar) attended as Myskiw's proxy. No new updates from the Registrar's Office.

Defined the Addendum to the Catalog as an option for approved urgent curriculum items to be effective as early as next semester, rather than on the regular Catalog publishing cycle. Councilors may reach out to Stansbury and Myskiw with Addendum questions. Deadlines for the Catalog and Addendum are included on the **Curriculum Timelines and Approvals Dates** document, located in the **Reference Materials** section of **Canvas**. Addendum items for Spring 2021 would have needed to be introduced at this meeting (9/23).

- Core Curriculum Committee

This committee is now being proposed as a function of Faculty Senate, rather than UGC. The charge will be voted on by Senate at their next meeting. Once established, this Senate committee will look at learning objectives for the core curriculum, determine how this should be implemented, then move those proposals through the appropriate channels (i.e. UGC) for review and approval. Alexis Sitchler and Vibhuti Dave will be co-chairing this small, high level group (mix of department heads, senators, faculty, and Student Life) but members have not been identified yet.

Concern was raised about Senate defining learning outcomes vs. UGC. King assured Council that while Senate will generate the proposals, UGC will be able to comment and ultimately approve what is presented.

Council questioned why Student Life was involved with identifying learning and academic outcomes. Dave explained the committee would be looking at extra and co-curricular activities that contribute to the overall holistic experience at Mines. As envisioned by the “signature student experience” championed by the President and Provost, some core curriculum will not be classwork related.

- Curriculum Steering Committee

The purpose is to identify course proposals (new and changes) that are unlikely to need major discussion. These administrative and/or minor curriculum items can be introduced as a single motion for vote at the appropriate time, to give priority to other Council business (such as program work). Currently, King, Barankin, Liu, and Cirillo have volunteered. The intention is to meet on the Wednesdays UGC is not meeting to review and categorize proposals for efficiency. Items are still open for comment and representatives should be prepared to provide details, but it may not be required.

- New Program Template

Departmental feedback suggested the template include a required section detailing how a proposed new degree program may impact/overlap with existing degree programs at Mines. This would apply to interdisciplinary programs and their potential impact on existing programs as well.

Council touched on clarity for sunset clauses. King will push the Handbook Committee to revise current wording that implies the closing of a program could lead to the dismissal of its faculty. This is a concern and risk to emerging programs (particularly interdisciplinary), and could be a disincentive for faculty to participate. King supposes this was probably not the intent of the policy, but the imprecise language needs to be clarified to differentiate between programs and departments, which were once used interchangeably. The Provost and Senate are aware this needs to be evaluated.

New Curriculum Items

- 1.1 Every Oredigger Policy sub-committee and Readmissions
Proposal for GPA Recovery Policy

**Kristine Callan &
Colin Terry**

GPA Recovery Policy document is available under Agenda Items for the 9/23 meeting on Canvas.

The sub-committee looked at peer institutions and found most have some version of a GPA recovery policy. Mines used to have one, but it was misused. Instead of modifying, it was rid of entirely.

The policy is a joint venture with Every Oredigger and Readmissions, who have already endorsed it as written. Registrar and Financial Aid have also given their endorsement.

This is an opportunity for students to academically recover without significant impact to their GPA. Every attempt at a Mines course will count toward overall GPA unless a student qualifies for GPA recovery. They are eligible if the most recent grade in a course was a D or an F. Students cannot retake if they earned a C or better. Students may retake any Mines course up to a third time, at which point the most recent grade will stand. W grades will still be subject to withdrawal policies and courses taken outside of Mines will not count.

Important to note that while retakes may remove previous grades from a GPA calculation, ALL grades (including Fs issued for academic misconduct) will remain on transcripts as an official record and notated accordingly. E = excluded and I = included

Terry clarified the process of GPA recovery is not automated. Students will need to notify the Registrar's Office of their intent. The plan is for the policy to be effective immediately - Fall 2020 and onward. Courses taken prior to Fall 2020 would not be eligible.

Terry confirmed that D+ grades could be replaced but C- grades could not.

A few Councilors asked about ways in which students would potentially misuse the policy, such as intentionally failing a course to retake at another time. Callan and Terry reiterated that the failing grade would still be on the transcript, but there was technically nothing stopping students from misusing the opportunity. Terry argued the benefit for the majority would be greater than potential abuse by a minority.

Terry added that versions from other schools did not differ in policy but in limitations and consequences. The sub-committee did not see value in setting restrictions for the number of classes that could be retaken, as individual circumstances varied and the purpose is to encourage recovery. If students can more quickly recover by excluding previously poor grades, this will also help with readmission, retention, and graduation.

King will look into the implementation schedule with the Addendum deadline and confer with the Registrar to see if it is possible for Fall 2020. Policy is not effective until it is in the Catalog, but the addendum could possibly be utilized to have it in place for Spring.

Councilors were tasked with bringing the policy back to their respective departments for feedback and the discussion will continue.

1.2 ENGINEERING, DESIGN and SOCIETY

CJ McClelland

[status: CIM 9/10/20]

1 course change: EDNS491: Senior Design I

Prereq and coreq changes for ME and EE Departments. These changes were requested by ME and EE and only affects their students. EDS is submitting this because the course has an EDNS prefix. Also cleaned up language and moved all requirements with the text "concurrent enrollment or completion of" to the coreq field.

This is an example of a course curriculum item the Steering Committee would review prior to a UGC meeting to determine if a presentation/discussion might be needed.

Deemed straightforward, no questions, and to be voted on at the next meeting (10/14).

Open Discussion

Jeff King

Confirmed the Provost is the first to see all **new** course and program proposals. These require Provost approval in the CIM workflow before they are brought to Council.

Administrative Changes to Curriculum 9/23/20

The following course changes were approved by **vote** to be **administratively processed** in the system:

GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

[status: CIM 8/28]

Chg sched type GEGN473: Geological Engineering Site Investigation

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

(status: CIM 9/2]

Deactivate EENG450: Systems Exploration and Engineering Design Lab
EENG334: Engineering Field Session, Electrical

MOTION: To approve administrative changes by Barankin; seconded by Hudson. No abstentions.
APPROVED.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020 | 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom.

Please send all agenda items request to Jane Ko (jko@mines.edu) one week prior to meeting.