

GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 5, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 24 total (12 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Neal Sullivan (Chair)	A	Amy Hitchner (LB)	P	Andy Osborne (NSE)	A	Owen Hildreth (ME)
A	Dave Benson (HSE)	P	Karin Leiderman (AMS)	P	Gabe Walton (UCT)	P	Ebru Bozdag (GP)
A	Juan Lucena (EDS)	P	Jim Ranville (GC)	A	Zhenzhen Yu (MME)	P	Geoff Brennecka (ML & MT)
P	Tulay Flamand (EB)	A	Danica Roth (GE)	P	Dejun Yang (CS)	P	Elizabeth Davis (HASS)
P	David Marr (CBE)	P	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	P	Luis Zerpa (PE)	P	*Reza Hedayat (CEE) proxy for Gabe Walton
P	Christine Morrison (CH)	A	Gongguo Tang (EE)	P	Jeremy Zimmerman (PH)	P	Jamal Rostami (MN)

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

A	Justin Bush (CEE)	A	Carolyn Freedman (OGS)	A	Jane Ko (AA)	A	Jennifer Veloff (Tref)
P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Cassie Glenn (CEE)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	A	Denise Winn-Bower (PE)
A	Dorothy Cheng (CS,EE,ME)	A	Jennie Kenney (AA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	P	Lori Kester (EM)

Additional Guests: John Bradford (GP), Sam Spiegel (Trefny), Manika Prasad (GP)

Welcome

Neal Sullivan

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Tim Barbari

Graduate Certificate Issues – Awarding, Stacking, “Unstacking”

OGS recognizes an issue that emerged following the creation of graduate certificates; the Engineering and Technology Development certificate allows students to stack certificates and have the opportunity to later earn a master’s in ETM. Admissions are not open to in-person certificates; there are 50+ certificates being awarded at graduation to existing master’s students in the ETM program.

Graduate certificates are subsumed beneath master’s degrees and are awarded to existing graduate students; allows the possibly for a master’s student completing 30-credits in Fall and Spring to be awarded upwards of four different credentials. PhD students that have met requirements for a master’s degree have the opportunity to complete a form to award the credential.

The graduate Catalog implies students obtaining any graduate credential maintain a 3.0 GPA. Policies being considered include requiring a 3.0 GPA for each individual credential. If the student remains in good academic standing within the master’s program but receives below 3.0 in the graduate certificate, the credential is not awarded. This policy would require manually assessing credits for a certificate, as GPA is generated for the entirety of the students’ graduate career.

Discussion begins on resumes containing information on credentials earned while at Mines. Note is made on misleading information on a resume when referencing a stacked graduate certificate while not completing the credits in a programmatic fashion.

This process will continue and is brought to Council as an informational item to consider with a request for Councilor and respective department feedback.

Registrar's Office

No updates.

Paul Myskiw

Graduate Student Government

Maxwell Silver

GSG provides anecdotal information from international graduate students with families requiring loans to support themselves and the cost of living. A proposal from Resident Life will be brought to Council to increase the cost of family housing at Mines Park by 22% Fall 2021 and Spring 2022. GSG expects a decrease in the number of international students with family in Mines Park.

The increase in rent would go through the Board of Trustees; Silver looks to provide information to both Council and Faculty Senate regarding the matter.

New Curriculum Item

1.1 **GEOPHYSICS**

Manika Prasad

[CIM 5/5]

1 new program: Online Grad Certificate – Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
This Certificate program aims to provide students with much needed working knowledge about Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage from a geologic and a non-geologic perspective. It also provides introductory knowledge about CCUS policy and economics.

Consideration for the certificate program comes from stigma associated with some degree programs at Mines due to energy consumption and utilization, the certificate would allow for credibility when applying for other jobs.

Mines has an external Advisory Board that consists of people from various industries including the gas and oil industries that are advising on the CCUS certificate. Corporate representatives would send students when the program is running. Bradford notes Oxy Low Carbon Ventures investing \$100 million into CCUS projects, Exxon Mobil investing \$3 billion in CCUS projects and starting a new CCUS venture. Chevron has announced a \$4 billion investment in CCUS, as well. Climate bills and infrastructure moving through Congress make mention of CCUS numerous times, Bradford states.

Bradford is unaware of formal education programs in CCUS and looks to provide Mines with market advantage.

Prasad outlines the course requirements with introduction to CCUS and climate change. The course outlines data on CCUS and climate change, where these data come from, identifying reliable and unreliable sources, climate models, and model uncertainties. The courses following revolve around mitigation, carbon reduction solutions, and industries creating greenhouse gases.

Twenty-five faculty have indicated participation, approvals have been received from all department heads to approve faculty working to develop these courses, and resources are being pulled to build course maps and varying modules.

Question on the availability of developed courses; Prasad expects courses to be offered in the second installment of Fall online courses. The online courses are currently being processed with the Trefny Center.

Questions on funding, faculty lines, and upper administration and departmental endorsement; Bradford notes the courses are online and are being funded through the online budget. Program leads, Trefny, Bradford, and Prasad will discuss individual requirements for the various courses and avoid burden on departments.

Sullivan notes Graduate Council approval is not required for launching 498 and 598 courses and moving through the online course workshop with the Trefny Center; Council is looking to provide feedback on new programs prior to procedural approval in Faculty Senate.

Comment on faculty lines and who will be teaching the course provided within the program should be outlined and assessed. Suggestion is made to provide a plan for the program in the following years with consensus from involved department heads and the respective deans.

Feedback will be gathered by Councilors from respective departments on the CCUS graduate certificate.

Other Business

Class Scheduling Letter

Tabled.

Christine Morrison

Graduate Council Subcommittees

Advisor / Advisee Procedures and Recommendations

Tabled.

Stipends for Graduate Students

Tabled.

Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs

Tabled.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 5:09pm.

May 5, 2021 marks the final posted date of Graduate Council. An official meeting can be called during the summer by the Graduate Council chair to address concerns, approvals, or discussion.

Please send all necessary agenda items to mgreen1@mines.edu.

Neal Sullivan

Consent Agenda The following proposals will not be discussed unless specifically requested by Council. With no objections, approval is implied and items will be processed accordingly.

- **Approval of Minutes** – April 21, 2021

Neal Sullivan