

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
August 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 14 total (8 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Sebnem Duzgun (Chair)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE/MN)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)
P	Jeff King (MME)	P	Yvette Kuiper (GE)	A	John McCray (CEE)	P	Cynthia Norrgran (CBE)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)	P	Lawrence Wiencke (PH)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	A	Robert Klimek (HASS)
A	Ali Tura (GP)	P	Deb Carney (AMS)				

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Tracy Gardner (Trustee)	P	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)*	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)
P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Ethan Lewellin (USG)	P	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	A	Tim Barbari (OGS)	P	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Patrick Farrell (LB)
P	Jenn Drumm (CASA)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	*Kendra Stansbury proxy for Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	*Brie Wutzlhofer proxy for Ethan Lewellin (USG)

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Sebnem Duzgun

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Holz welcomes Faculty and Senators back for the semester; he has received excited feedback from students. Freshmen are overwhelmed with the start of a new academic year but are happy to be on campus. The incoming class was reported to be around 1,450 incoming freshmen.

Academic Affairs intends on continued work on Mines@150 initiatives, including core curriculum revision with the assistance of Faculty Senate. Vibhuti Dave is also working on shared concentrations between programs, currently referred to as “Plus Programs,” prior to launch this will brought to Faculty Senate.

Equal Work for Equal Pay is still in discussion, Holz will meet with HR regularly to finalize benchmarking for salaries by early September. Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, Christine Homer, will bring further information to Senate in the future.

Duzgun raises question regarding Faculty concerns on COVID vaccination information and addressing this information to Faculty.

Peter Han and the CRIT team are working to update the policies and facts on the Mines COVID site. The dashboard is no longer being updated following removal of testing mandates for those living on campus. The newest dashboard would contain information on positive COVID cases on-campus within faculty, staff, and students, number of isolated students, number of quarantined students, and vaccination levels.

Holz reports 25% of faculty and staff have not notified CRIT of vaccination status. 89% of faculty and staff have been vaccinated. The deadline for submission of vaccination status was 8/23; over 1,060

students uploaded the information that afternoon. Prior to the mass submission, there was a 91% vaccination level for students.

The dashboard is expected to be updated in early September with ongoing weekly or bi-weekly updates regarding vaccinations and positive COVID cases.

Holz met with department heads 8/19 with the request to remind faculty to upload vaccination information, even if the vaccine had been provided on campus.

Question on vaccination status breakdown by department or class; Holz states this information will not be provided due to privacy issues. The vaccination levels are being used to communicate what is being met as a community.

Comment is made on those being treated differently due to positive COVID test or contact test; Holz verifies that this method is per CDC guidelines for an individual vaccinated having been in close contact with a COVID positive individual. This person will be asked to wear a mask but is not required to quarantine or isolate. If a vaccinated or unvaccinated individual test positive, isolation for the recommended timeframe is necessary even if asymptomatic per CDC guidelines.

Question regarding those who have uploaded vaccination status in early spring being carried over to the full system; Holz confirms that this should be the case for those having submitted in May 2021. There had not been any confirmation emails; Peter Han and the CRIT team are going through faculty submissions to identify anyone who had not made a submission. For students who have not submitted vaccination status, spring registration will be put on hold and students will be moved back in the queue.

Request made for the feedback hear from students regarding vaccinations policies at Mines; Holz reports some pushback in the summer regarding requirement of the COVID vaccination from parents and alum. Peter Han, Provost Holz, and Dan Fox met with a group of parents to discuss the vaccine and mask requirement. This group opposed the vaccine requirement and mask requirements; these concerns were understood and discussed. Mines will continue to collect data and feedback from faculty, staff, and students.

Out of the 7,000 students at Mines, only 4-5 emails were received regarding mask requirements. Dean of Students, Derek Morgan, has been reaching out to the students in question.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw reports successful registration and enrollment of 1,454 freshmen. The average class size of Mines was between 1,115 and 1,200. This is the largest class to be admitted to Mines; Myskiw reminds faculty to keep this in mind as the class moves through curriculum for new sections in upper-division courses.

The current plan within the Registrar's Office is to identify students within specific majors, what they need as far as courses moving forward, and relay that information to faculty. The goal is to provide this class with a three- and four-year plan with as little resistance as possible to provide faculty opportunity to plan.

Myskiw reminds faculty to keep track of students who are enrolled in courses and are attending. An announcement will be sent out in the next week to identify any students not participating or having not attended courses for follow-up on the Registrar's end. Myskiw provides an example in which Fall 2020, between September and October, around 40 students were identified to have never attended classes.

Question asked about the reasons for this large freshman class and if a similarly sized class is expected for the next year. Holz reports that 800 students attended Oredigger camp and of those 50% accepted coming to Mines without stepping foot on campus. Multiple factors are at play including students who opted out of school during the COVID year and are returning to the system and the yield increased for students offered a spot at Mines which is thought to be due to the implementation of Mines@150. It is not anticipated that this same class size will register in the following Fall, but the goal is 1,325 students.

This goal is projected due to the decrease in non-thesis masters and certificate students; to make the university's budget work, the increase in undergraduate students is needed to offset the lost revenue on the graduate side. The strategic plan outlines masters and certificate numbers around 1,800 and 1,900 total students.

Kester states that the fall application is live. In Fall 2020, admissions began in September and by December 2020 applications were down by 1,000. With news of the COVID vaccine, January and February 2021 saw a 3% yield increase. Common App has officially launched at Mines and is expected to increase applicants.

Question on the role of test optional in the increase in applicants and if there is a process by which specific classrooms can be requested in the coming semesters; Kester reports 46% of incoming students did not submit a test score, this resulted in a 6% increase in diverse students, the average test score increased, and the average high school GPA went up .8 points and resulted in Mines becoming more selective. The state of Colorado will no longer be demanding universities to require SAT or ACT scores. 94% of all four-year institutions for the next year will remain test-optional, only private institutions have gone back to requiring tests.

Myskiw states that the Registrar's Office is continuing to develop tools with Astra and Banner to match faculty preference and needs regarding classroom spaces. Classrooms in question are smaller or specific and have experienced a higher load due to the incoming class size. This class was registered in every room with 15 credits or more. As the year moves forward, classroom management processing will also be changing.

Vibhuti Dave will be assisting in overseeing the process, faculty will also be asked to be involved in the process and modernizing classrooms to fit needs.

Committee Updates

Duzgun provides a quick update on the membership of the Faculty Senate executive committee:

- Faculty Senate President Sebnem Duzgun
- Secretary of the Faculty Senate Joseph Horan
- Chair of Graduate Council Bettina M. Voelker
- Chair of Undergraduate Council Jeffrey C. King
- Chair of Research Council Yvette D. Kuiper

Senate Secretary

Joe Horan

Horan is working with the previous Faculty Senate Secretary, Alina Handorean, to finalize volunteers for the various university committees.

Senate is looking to fill three vacancies via five volunteers. According to the Academic Faculty Bylaws Article II.E.6:

Vacated seats will remain vacant until the next regularly scheduled election unless the vacancy will exceed three months. In that case, a replacement, who must meet eligibility requirements of the seat to be filled, nominated by the Executive Committee, and approved by much of the Senate, will serve the remainder of the three-year term unless the Senate votes to hold a campus-wide election to fill the vacancy.

Of the five volunteers, four have confirmed the ability to remain on Senate for the entire three-year term. Two volunteers are from HASS, to not violate Bylaw mandate for only two Senators from a department—those two volunteers cannot be voted to fill more than one vacancy.

The following volunteers have been nominated by the Executive Committee:

- Maggie Greenwood (Teaching Associate Professor: Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences)
- Sid Saleh (Teaching Associate Professor: Economics & Business)
- Austin Wesley (Associate Professor: Military Science)

Horan opens the floor for discussion regarding a campus-wide election.

Question regarding the Senator balance of teaching faculty and tenure/tenure track faculty; Horan states that Senate should hold a majority tenured faculty, these volunteers would not affect this balance.

Question on what types of vacancies are being filled by these volunteers; Horan reports one vacancy being fulfillment of a Senators remaining year term, the two other vacancies are to fill three-year terms.

MOTION: To not move forward with a campus-wide election by King, seconded by Horan. 9 for, 1 against, 1 abstention. APPROVED.

Horan states recommendations for University and Faculty Senate committee volunteers will be sent to Senators.

Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates

Faculty Senate Meeting Modes

Duzgun opens the floor for discussion on remote Faculty Senate meetings or face-to-face meetings; Duzgun prefaces that the Executive Committee has discussed the efficiency and pros/cons of online versus face-to-face meetings and has moved to suggest remote meetings. Recommendation is made against hybrid format to avoid logistical issues of maintaining Zoom and in-person discussions.

Undergraduate and Graduate Council will remain in remote sessions.

MOTION: To continue meeting online through Zoom for the Fall 2021 semester by Horan, seconded by Kuiper. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

Instruction Effectiveness Taskforce Co-Chair

Duzgun opens the floor for volunteers to co-chair the instruction effectiveness committee following the resignation of Robin Bullock from Senate.

Clarification is raised on the work of the taskforce and what is currently needed; presentation will be made to Senate prior to election of a co-chair.

Ad-Hoc Committees of the Faculty Senate

Comment is raised on the consequence of the 20-21 Faculty Senate Bylaw change in which all ad-hoc committees will be voted for renewal at the beginning of the year.

A list of these committees is then provided by Horan:

- Non-Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty Committee
- Student Signature Experience Committee
- Core Curriculum Committee
- Faculty Procedures Committee
- Ombudsperson Committee
- Online Standards Committee

MOTION: Approve the list of ad-hoc Faculty Senate committee charges for the coming year by King, seconded by Kuiper. Motion passes unanimously. APPROVED.

Undergraduate Council

Jeff King

The council will be bringing items to Senate from the previous year at the following meeting.

Graduate Council

Tina Voelker

Voelker begins by addressing items under purview of Graduate Council:

- Graduate Student Recruiting
- Teaching Assistant Allocation
- Graduate Student Admission Records
- Thesis Format
- Deadlines
- Additional administrative matters

Voelker requests communication with faculty and their departments and Senators to weigh in on Graduate Council matters to benefit graduate education.

Kuiper mentions the graduate student stipends matter brought to Research and Graduate Council, and continuation of this discussion.

Duzgun requests for continued communication regarding interdisciplinary programs discussed at a graduate level.

Adjourn

Sebnem Duzgun

Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to mgreen1@mines.edu one week prior.