

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 15 total (8 needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Sebnem Duzgun (Chair)	P	Austin Wesley (MS)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE/MN)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)
P	Jeff King (MME)	P	Yvette Kuiper (GGE)	A	John McCray (CEE)	P	Cynthia Norrgran (CBE)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)	P	Lawrence Wiencke (PH)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Maggie Greenwood (HASS)
P	Sid Saleh (EB)	P	Deb Carney (AMS)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)		

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	Ethan Lewellin (USG)	P	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Patricia Andersen (LB)
A	Jenn Drumm (CASA)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Julie Lambert (EM)		

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Sebnem Duzgun

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Holz reported on the successful 9/10 Board of Trustees meeting and encouraged Senators and faculty to review the minutes or recording. Holz provided a highlight from the meeting; Mines finished the fiscal year in a strong financial position. Official census numbers have not been reviewed as of 9/14, Census Day was 9/8.

There has been one incident of a student refusing to wear a mask but was handled by Academic Affairs accordingly. Holz encouraged faculty to remind students of the guidelines for mask requirements in class and during passing periods. The COVID-19 webpage has been updated ([access here](#)). There will be weekly updates on the university's vaccination levels, number of current cases, and total cases.

Question raised on requirement of masks during passing period; Holz noted this was included in the original message on masks. Passing periods are a cause for congestion on campus, and faculty are encouraged to remind students to wear masks during this time. Signage is being developed.

Academic Affairs has begun faculty searches in continuation with the renewable energies cluster. The committee will be reconfigured and the search will continue for four faculty in that area; this cluster was unsuccessful the previous year. Other departmental searches are going on for mining, computer science and business and economics. A few were failed searches from 2020. The mining search is for an individual in the extractive metallurgy area. A department head search will begin for AMS. An additional search will continue in MME; a call had been put out for teaching faculty positions, the deadline was 9/15. Once compiled, AA will assess how many positions are available to create a search for additional teaching faculty.

In the past year, 37 individuals were hired. 15 individuals were 10-year tenure track faculty and the remaining 21 were teaching faculty and professors of practice. Included in the hiring season was the newest Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer.

Holz will work with the executive team and deans to develop a strategic plan and hiring plan for the next three years as Mines@150 progresses. Holz encouraged faculty and Senators to continue being involved with strategic plan initiatives and Mines@150.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw reported Student Life will send a message to the 800 students that did not comply in vaccination status notification. Registration for these students will be placed on hold until this information is collected.

The Registrar's Office will have a new hire starting 10/4. This individual will work exclusively as a registrar advisor for online students and supporting students in online programs.

Comment made on a problem encountered in which online programs do not supply the same amount of credentials as other non-degree students, which created issues in applications; Myskiw reported admissions having created a shorter version of the application to create a streamlined process.

The schedule for Spring 2022 will be released to departments in the next few weeks along with analysis data of this Fall 2021 semester. Additional course and sections have been added to assist faculty in planning for what is needed in the spring semester. A request had been made from faculty on placement rates for AP to know where students landed in this incoming class.

Myskiw will work with Undergraduate Council on Common Exam and other exam scheduling concerns.

Approval of Minutes – August 24, 2021

Sebnem Duzgun

MOTION: To approve the Faculty Senate minutes of August 24, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates

Duzgun welcomes the three new Senators to Faculty Senate:

- Maggie Greenwood – Teaching Associate Professor, Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
- Sid Saleh – Teaching Associate Professor, Economics and Business
- Austin Wesley – Associate Professor, Military Science

Senate Workplan

Sebnem Duzgun

Duzgun provided an overview of the Senate workplan. The workplan included increased communication strategies with faculty and management. New and additional channels are being created to provide a communication outlet for faculty, including a suggestion box that faculty are open to provide discussion topics anonymously. Senators were encouraged to reach out to their departments and colleagues. A newsletter will be provided following Senate sessions with minutes attached; social events will also be planned for continued faculty involvement with Faculty Senate.

Existing student signature experience projects will be asked to report impact. A more consecutive, in-depth evaluation process will be created for new projects. Gap analyses will be done to assess areas that need enhancement. The Student Signature Experience subcommittee of Senate requested volunteers.

Faculty Senate will continue discussion of interdisciplinary graduate programs and evaluation and sustainability of said programs.

The ad-hoc committee for online standards will continue its evaluation of courses and provide recommendations to Senate.

At the end of Spring 2021, 20-21 Senate was asked to consider DI&A issues. Inclusion and access issues should be highlighted.

Policies and Procedures will work toward finalization.

Duzgun provided Senators an overview of Senate Campus Leadership and Senate representation on campus committees.

- Graduate Council chair – Bettina Voelker
 - Undergraduate Council chair – Jeff King
 - Research Council chair – Yvette Kuiper
 - Procedures and Policies Committee chair – John McCray
 - Faculty Survey Committee chair – Austin Wesley
 - Library Committee chair – Maggie Greenwood
 - Academic Standards Committee chair – Deb Carney
 - Signature Student Experience Committee chair – Cynthia Norrgran
 - Online Course Standards Committee chair – Cynthia Norrgran
 - Core Curriculum Committee co-chair – Joe Horan
-
- Budget Committee Rep – Linda Figueroa
 - Calendar Committee Rep – Pat Kohl
 - Handbook Committee Rep – Lawrence Wiencke
 - Research Advisory Board Rep – Sebnem Duzgun
 - Readmissions Committee Rep – Cynthia Norrgran
 - Assessment Committee Rep – Joe Horan
 - Faculty Oversight on Sports and Athletics Committee Rep – Sid Saleh
 - Core Curriculum Committee Rep – Pat Kohl
 - Online Standards Committee Rep – Soutir Bandyopadhyay

Volunteers were requested for SSE Gap Analysis, the Non-Tenure Track Faculty committee, and the Instructional Effectiveness Taskforce.

Emeritus Definition and Discussion

Joe Horan

Horan reported one emeritus faculty requesting Senate's assistance in clarification of what it means to be emeritus faculty and what rights and responsibilities this holds. The definition is not provided in the Faculty Handbook and the Procedures manual provides the only definition for how an emeritus faculty is nominated.

Holz noted that this discussion would be best handled by the departments, whether a department would like to include emeritus faculty on list serves.

Senators agreed that this is a departmental culture in which language would not be added to the Handbook.

Suggestion made for Senate to provide a recommendation for department heads regarding emeritus

faculty definitions and responsibilities.

Committee Updates

Research Council

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper provided an overview of the new Research Council membership for 21-22 as well as a Council year-plan. This included subcommittee overviews and goals.

Subcommittees of the Research Council for 21-22 and work include:

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

Provide means for faculty to request funding for small research equipment. Two calls for requests are made per year, the first having been sent out in September 2021.

Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

Research Fusion sessions would be short, five-minute presentations by faculty in an informal environment to enhance community and networking. The Lecture Series would be lectures provided by that year's Excellence in Research Award winners.

Excellence in Research Awards

The subcommittee has existed within Research Council for a decade and provides evaluation of nominees, one senior and one junior, and sends recommendation to Faculty Senate. The awards are provided by Academic Affairs.

Research Communications

The subcommittee is dedicated to facilitation of campus-wide research communications. The committee has provided recommendations for the improvement of the Research Technology and Transfer website that is used by faculty and external users to browse and search equipment and research facilities that are available on campus.

Definition, Roles (and promotion) of non-T/TT researchers on campus

The subcommittee will work to provide definitions for various roles on campus alongside working with the implementation of Equal Work for Equal Pay.

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

The subcommittee will address issues and new initiatives related to instrumentation and space. Research Communications and REI were branches of this subcommittee.

Graduate Stipends

The issue of graduate stipend gaps within departments was brought to Research Council in Spring 2021. The subcommittee will work to provide solutions to narrow the stipend gap at Mines.

High-Performance Computing

The subcommittee will provide advice on HPC-related policy issues. Will facilitate communication between ITS, ORA, and the HPC community.

Mentoring

The subcommittee will work to provide a document of recommendation for mentoring faculty and other researchers, including postdocs.

Mines Research Incentive Program

The committee will compile feedback from the MRIP program and provide recommendations.

Comment made on the MRIP program and Equal Work for Equal Pay; Kuiper stated that this is one of the comments provided during Summer 2021 that will be addressed by the subcommittee's recommendation.

Suggestion made for the MRIP subcommittee to consider commercialization of research and the alumni innovation fund when addressing retention and advertisement of research at Mines.

MOTION: To approve the Research Council year-plan as presented by Kuiper, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

Student Signature Experience

Cynthia Norrgran

Norrgran provided a brief overview of the ad-hoc committee for new Senators. The committee was charged with the oversight of SSE implementation, collaboration across SSE awarded proposals, soliciting reports for Senate and the Executive Team and Mines Foundation. \$80k is left of the \$500k funding provided to Senate. Senate President and the committee will collect information on the overall status of the projects and the state of the funds. Senate will look at how to improve the SSE process from start to finish.

Norrgran reported some projects are complete, others have not started, and some projects have a two-year timeline. Each project has an individual timeline, budget, and set of expectations. The committee has spoken with Faculty Senate President Duzgun and the Trefny Center to have projects provide assessments and impact statements for reports.

Undergraduate Council

Jeff King

Finals and Review Week Policy

King reviewed the recommendation from the UGC subcommittee for student workload on the Finals and Review Week policy.

Clarification requested on the 48-hour take-home exam request and why this time slot was selected.

Best Practices in Consistency in Grading

The issue being addressed by this subcommittee was the issue of plus/minus grading systems; students unhappy with grades reflected differently between sections using varying grading systems.

Recommendation was made by the subcommittee to have a set grading system for different sections of the same course.

Comment made on situation in which faculty may not disclose plus/minus grading within the syllabus; issues of communication on how something is converted into an A or a minus are not provided. Senate hesitated in providing a solution or recommendation to avoid issues of academic freedom. Consensus reached that consistency is needed, and clear communication should be provided to students on grading systems.

Comment made on the importance of standardization as a means of faculty protection if students see a variation in grade and perceive this as a personal prejudice against the faculty member. The Catalog provides some terminology on grading in that "Mines faculty have the reasonability, and sole authority for, assigning grades." Senators interpreted this as the responsibility to do so in an equitable way for students.

Discussion continued on standardization within sections or campus-wide standardization. Comment made on standardized courses avoiding issues of new instructors providing a different grading scale than previous instructors of that same course.

Suggestion made to avoid extremes; faculty encouraged to look at policy that would increase fairness without strictness encroaching on faculty's academic freedom.

Office Hours Definition and Times

Not addressed in this session.

Graduate Council

Tina Voelker

Voelker provided brief update on Graduate Council discussion. Council discussed improvement of curriculum overview procedures. Input will be collected on subcommittee processes from the 20-21 Council.

Adjourn

Sebnem Duzgun

Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Next Meeting: September 28, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to mgreen1@mines.edu one week prior.