

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
 October 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom

**Attendees:**

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

P	Sebnem Duzgun (Chair)	A	Austin Wesley (MS)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE/MN)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)
P	Jeff King (MME)	A	Yvette Kuiper (GE)	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)	A	Colin Terry (Student Life)
P	Sam Spiegel (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)	A	Lisa Nickum (LB)
P	Jenn Drumm (CASA)	P	Angela Dunn (Trefny)	P	*Brie Wutzlhofer (USG) proxy for Ethan Lewellin		

**Special Guest(s):**

**Welcome**

Sebnem Duzgun

**Academic Affairs**

Rick Holz

Holz reported that Mines review current COVID requirements and how these align with the federal mandate. This mandate will require masks in all academic buildings and indoor spaces along with a vaccination component. This mandate will be followed due to the federal contracts and grants. The university has until 12/8 to comply.

Holz has attended several faculty department meetings; a call for additional cluster hires has been put out. A cluster hire from 2020 has been called over for the renewable energy cluster, this is being run currently. There are five to six tenure track positions that are being sought that are majority replacement-type positions. There has been a call for teaching faculty request, Holz and the Deans have reviewed this request as of 10/12 and are in the process of consensus from the Executive group on clusters to pursue and the teaching faculty request. Work will also be done with finance to address financial availability. Several departments have expressed need for additional teaching help with the large student class.

**Registrar's Office**

Paul Myskiw

No updates from the Registrar's Office.

**Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2021**

Sebnem Duzgun

**MOTION:** To approve the October 12, 2021 Faculty Senate minutes by Horan, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

**Trail@Mines**

Vibhuti Dave

Toni Lefton, Colin Terry, and Vibhuti Dave have worked on the collaborative initiative called Trail. Dave stated this initiative as a means of capturing the holistic OreDigger experience and value everything that students participate and engage during their time at Mines to create a “whole engineer”. Trail is an acronym for Transformative Record for Applied Integrative Learning.

Trail consists of two complimentary components: an experiential major map (EMM) that provides students a map to carve out the four-years at Mines. This map goes beyond an academic flow chart. The second component is a comprehensive learner record (CLR). The CLR has been worked on by Toni Lefton, Sam Spiegel, and Paul Myskiw in coordination with Mines' reception of the Lumina Grant. This grant was provided for thinking of and implementing a CLR at Mines.

The EMM provided in the Trail experience would provide students with a map of experiential and curriculum information. It would provide a recommended timeframe to engage in and participate in activities outside of the classroom such as competitions, internships, and professional associations. The CLR would provide an Ore Cart for Mines' experiences students choose to participate in. Examples provided by Dave for these Ore Carts included: Leadership and Innovation, Professional Development; Research, Creative and Scholarly Achievement; Inclusive and Impactful Civic Engagement, and Health and Wellness. The implementation team for Trail included Toni Lefton, Colin Terry, Vibhuti Dave, Paul Myskiw, Deb Jordan, Tricia Douthtit, and Monique Sendze. Dave asked for faculty assistance in creating a diverse steering committee, focus groups, and surveys for guidance across campus.

Dave reported members of the steering committee including: Implementation leaders, department heads and program directors, Student Life representatives (the Career Center and CASA), Admissions and the Registrar's Office, Faculty Senate, and Student representatives.

- Question on the terminology of whole engineer and how more technical backgrounds fit into Trail; Dave informed faculty this is not to isolate technical backgrounds but to work in creation of a whole STEM professional regardless of background and encourage students that are gaining skills in and outside of the classroom.
- Question on student flexibility in this program; Dave stated there is a recommended timeline that students can opt into but students are not expected to commit to a multitude of extracurricular activities. The use of Trail is to provide validation for students that have completed, are in the progress of, or seeking activities outside of the classroom.
- Concern brought forward on combining the music program with clubs or Greek Life when the program is a rigorous academic unit and not a club; Dave noted this is why faculty input is being sought after in creation of these CLR Ore Carts, and that what was presented at Faculty Senate is not a final plan.
- Question on the bureaucratic component of this and how it will affect the creation and growth of student clubs and organizations; Dave stated that student representation will be present on the steering committee to ensure smooth implementation of Trail.
- Concern on the potentiality of an opt-in program being a discriminating factor against students that are unable to take part in the program at all.
- Question on the timeline of Trail; Dave reported Trail as a multi-year process. The next presentation will be to the Foundation and the Senior Executive team. If there is institutional commitment, a better timeline can be forged. Trail would not see expected kickoff in 2021.

## Committee Updates

## Senate Secretary

Joe Horan

No updates from the Faculty Senate Secretary.

## Faculty Senate Suggestion Box Item(s)

Horan introduced the Faculty Senate Suggestion Box, available on the Senate webpage [[click here](#)]. These submissions will remain anonymous, unless otherwise requested by the faculty member.

A faculty member described being belittled, shamed, and treated poorly by students when asked to wear masks between classes; Holz stated mask requirements will change with implementation of the federal mandate. Masks will be required indoors and in all academic buildings, including passing periods, in offices, and during meetings. Masks will not be required in individual offices, but within shared spaces this requirement will remain in effect.

A faculty member stated that faculty were led to believe that the organization had a vaccine mandate in place in which vaccinated students may attend campus and that there have not been penalties for failure to be vaccinated; Holz reported that students that have failed to notify Mines of vaccination status or exemption have been sent emails and are unable to register for Spring 2022. Consequences can only be applied to students that have not notified vaccine status; Colorado allows for students, faculty, and staff to opt-out of vaccines due to various reasons.

A faculty member commented that students that have not received a vaccine are the only individuals in quarantine; Holz informed faculty that vaccinated and symptomatic students require isolation, as well. If a student is vaccinated, symptomatic, and have tested positive for COVID they must wait seven days to test again and need a negative test to return to classes. A vaccinated individual who has had contact with a COVID-positive individual should notify Mines, keep watch, and be tested but are not required to quarantine.

A faculty member noted the difficulty of providing makeup options during this time and what can be done by the administration, Faculty Senate, and others to provide support during this time; Holz stated the guidelines document for makeup options for isolated and quarantined students was drafted by both Academic Affairs and department heads. A number of possible solutions for implementation were provided, but these are all suggestions.

Comment made on the number of COVID cases recorded on the Mines' site versus what is being experienced in the classroom; these cases are only what is reported, students may not be reporting sickness or may not have COVID but are still sick. Holz noted that this is no longer the time to power through a cold or the flu and suggested that students and faculty that do not feel well return to campus when symptoms have subsided.

## Online Course Design and Facilitation Standards

Cynthia Norrgran

Ad Hoc Committee

Norrgran reported committee populated as of April 2021 with all committee members having completed the course design review training. Several courses have been reviewed over Summer 2021. The committee met in September 2021 and concluded that it will remain a formal committee rather than a Council; additional courses were reviewed during this time. The committee met again in October 2021. A canvas site was set-up with a discussion board for the structure of the new committee. The committee will meet again on 10/22 to formalize the type of committee best suited for the current charge. Finalized recommendations will be brought to Faculty Senate in 2022.

Comment raised on faculty issues in online course implementation, not necessarily design. Norrgran noted that the committee was charged with review and not charged in addressing faculty issues in implementing online courses, designing courses, or the content of the online courses. The committee will make note of the suggestions regarding course implementation issues for consideration in the full committee creation. Senators noted the need for Senate's involvement in the online education decision-making process beyond course approvals.

### **Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates**

#### Vote for Approval of 3 Late Addition Graduates for May 2021

Faculty Senate voted on the approval of the list of May 2021 graduates, Senate was notified of three late additions to that list.

**MOTION:** To approve 3 late additions for the list of graduates of May 2021 by King, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations for Various Positions on Campus

Academic Affairs will provide further information on the revision of the vaccine requirement for graduate student positions in the federal mandate. Adjunct faculty are also under evaluation, along with researcher positions. It is certain that undergraduate students do not fall under this mandate as undergraduate students are not considered employees. Research positions are to be considered carefully due to federal funds and grants; Senate encouraged faculty to bring this information to departments.

#### Board of Trustees Updates

Duzgun requested assistance from Senate leadership positions in providing a brief update on Councils and committees of the Faculty Senate for the 10/22 Board of Trustees meeting.

#### Institutional Risks Survey 2021

The Board of Trustees brought forward the institutional risks topic. These risks are evaluated by survey which was shared by Kirsten Volpi. The most important items included: cyber security, human resources retention rates, financial pressures, institutional growth, resistance to change, diversity and inclusion, and external partnerships.

### **Undergraduate Council**

Jeff King

Course approvals have moved into the workflow for vote by Undergraduate Council. Question on course removal; it is noted that deactivation of courses is up to the department for removal.

Myskiw reported 800 programs are in Banner with only 160 having students enlisted. Academic Affairs will work with department heads and Deans on minimum enrollment courses and begin removal of courses with low enrollment. Deans are in the process of collecting teaching load data from the last five years. Deans have also asked for department heads' three-year plans.

Comment made on adjunct teaching large sections of freshman but are not paid in reflectance of the higher workload.

### **Graduate Council**

Tina Voelker

#### Curriculum Items for Senate Vote:

1.1 **MATERIALS SCIENCE**  
[CIM 9/18; GC 10/6]

**1 program change:** MSPHD-MATSCI: MS & PhD – Materials Science

*Removal of course in program course list that is no longer taught/available. Removal of MLGN550 (deactivated) in course list.*

## 1.2 **QUANTUM ENGINEERING**

[CIM 9/18; GC 10/6]

**1 program change:** QUE: Quantum Engineering

*Addition of elective HASS423: Advanced Science Communication to elective course list.*

**MOTION:** To approve the 2 program changes presented to Faculty Senate in an omnibus vote by King, seconded by Horan. 13 for, 1 abstention. APPROVED.

### **New Business**

Sebnem Duzgun

#### Student Signature Experience Funding Allocation

There are unused funds from the Student Signature Experience projects from 2020. Faculty Senate will require a decision be made on the allocation of these funds. Duzgun will meet with the chair of the SSE committee to discuss these funds.

#### Ombuds Office Proposal

A proposal has been drafted by the Ombuds subcommittee for Faculty Policies committee for the creation of an ombuds office at Mines. This subcommittee has worked on revisions of the document and will be brought to Faculty Senate for consideration.

#### Student Engagement in Discussions

Jordan reported on suggestions from faculty members on increasing student engagement in classroom discussions. Suggestion made in larger classrooms to spread students out and arrange desks into tables in rows. Students engaged more with the increased space between them. It was noted that this could be due to students not feeling safe, even with masks on.

### **Adjourn**

Sebnem Duzgun

Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to [mgreen1@mines.edu](mailto:mgreen1@mines.edu) one week prior.