

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 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 (GE)	P	John McCray (CEE)	A	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)	A	Tim Barbari (OGS)	P	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Amy Hitchner (LB)
P	Jenn Drumm (CASA)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	*Brie Wutzlhofer proxy for Ethan Lewellin (USG)		

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Sebnem Duzgun

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

As of 9/28, the Mines webpage for COVID-19 reported 11 total cases including students and staff. Holz was unaware of faculty that had tested positive. Holz requested faculty to thank colleagues and departments for remaining vigilant.

Holz has met with several departments and will continue to meet with departments on feedback for the various Mines@150 initiatives on-campus.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw reported work began on spring and summer scheduling for classes. The timelines and deadlines have been sent out. Myskiw asked faculty that any consideration for summer courses should be booked for scheduling for students to see even if full details are not available for the course. Students often review the schedule, see a course is not offered, and will not check again. The schedule will be available late October and early November.

Concern on scheduling for classrooms for the Fall 2021 semester, question raised on how this will improve for Spring 2022. Conflicts occurred due to some areas of the Green Center and Student Center having spaces booked as classrooms and classrooms being used by those without access or room confirmation. The Registrar's Office made faculty aware that spaces should not be occupied even if empty.

Prior to 2020, departments had classroom space under their purview. The new model uses general assignments for classrooms with priority given to departments within those spaces. Pushback experienced from departments looking to use the space for faculty meetings; classroom assignment comes first.

MOTION: To approve the Faculty Senate meeting minutes of September 14, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

Faculty Policies Committee

John McCray

The committee will continue to communicate with the Handbook Committee. The Handbook Committee works to implement policy; Faculty Policies Committee will work in the development and improvement of new and current policies. The committee has five active subcommittees established that began work in May 2021.

The five subcommittees of the Faculty Policies Committee are:

Ombudsperson Policy subcommittee: A group of faculty expressed interest in the development of an ombuds office at Mines. The ombuds subcommittee has developed a set of guidelines, in Summer 2021 the subcommittee was suggested to reach out to the larger community to collect views. The subcommittee was tasked with retrieving feedback from constituents including faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students.

Faculty Grievance Procedures subcommittee: will review faculty grievance policies across the U.S. and determine procedures useful at Mines, develop a draft for review of Faculty Senate and later Handbook Committee consideration.

FHB Evaluation subcommittee: will conduct a “best practices” review of U.S. universities to determine the state of practice regarding mission and contents of a Faculty Handbook, subcommittee will then review the current Handbook and propose revisions to the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Review of Faculty Procedures across campus not in the FHB subcommittee: will review policies across campus (HR, Graduate Catalog, Undergraduate Catalog, Faculty Senate Bylaws) and evaluate procedures to be removed, included, and revised in the current Faculty Handbook, revisions proposed to the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Policies Driven by Law Referenced in the FHB: review Faculty Handbook mentions of law that cannot be changed by faculty. Members include Mines Human Resources and legal.

A sixth subcommittee is in development for DI&A incorporation into FDR and the Faculty Handbook.

Committee Updates

Senate Secretary

Joe Horan

As of 9/28, there were eleven messages to the faculty suggestion box. A wide variety of topics have been brought to Faculty Senate. These topics will be addressed in future meetings.

Ad-Hoc Committee on DI&A

Sebnem Duzgun

In Spring 2021, a request was made to Faculty Senate for incorporation of DI&A issues into the Policies and Procedures Manual in two ways: academic activities and inclusion in FDR. Discussion requested for creation of Faculty Senate ad-hoc committee to address this inclusion and recommendations.

Question raised on how DI&A should be incorporated into FDR, promotion and tenure; this question would be answered with the establishment of the ad-hoc committee and recommendations for DI&A inclusion. DI&A can be incorporated into teaching, research, and service within the FDR or by listing it separately. The methodology for incorporation would require definition and clarification by the ad-hoc committee recommendation.

Faculty Senate recommended draft of a proposal and charge of the DI&A committee.

Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates

Student Request for Course Recordings

Undergraduate Student Government emailed request to require faculty to record all lectures and post to Canvas for students unable to attend class to watch later. Faculty feedback from Fall 2020 described lecture recordings as substandard. Sound and photo quality, student activities and conversations were not high quality.

Academic Affairs provided guidelines for faculty to record lectures and post, but was not made a requirement. These guidelines provided multiple options to assist students quarantined and isolated. Academic Affairs remained unwilling to make this a requirement. Holz reported faculty have been working with quarantined or isolated students to assure course information is provided.

Concern brought forward by CRIT: students tested positive stress due to lack of remote options. The remote option for labs, Labby, are unavailable. Faculty noted recording software as substandard with slow response times from ITS.

Academic Affairs asked faculty and students to work together for specific classes and issues of quarantine-related absences.

Distinguished Lecture Series: Carolyn Koh – October 28, 2021 at 4pm

Faculty Senate officially announced the Distinguished Lecture Series event on 10/28 at 4pm. Email for Zoom Webinar registration was sent.

Undergraduate Council

Jeff King

Finals and Review Week Policy discussion

King provided clarification on the 48-hr section for take-home exams on the Finals and Review Week Policy. The author and subcommittee discussed this timeslot to avoid exam overlap and allow for students with multiple exams to have at least one free night to dedicate to a take home exam.

Best Practices in Consistency in Grading discussion

The consistency in grading plus and minus grading recommendation provided general recommendations but were not concrete. Senate requested a combined committee with Undergraduate and Graduate Councils to discuss consistency in grading and provide recommendation. Suggestion made to consider grading consistency to avoid large academic discrepancies within not only semesters but academic years in course sections.

Graduate Council

Tina Voelker

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GEOLOGY & GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

[CIM 9/9; Grad Council 9/15]

1 program change: CRMS-GISG: GIS & GeoInformatics – Certificates and MSNT
Course change of CSCI303 to DSCI403. Identical courses, CSCI remnant of program being built prior to creation of the DSCI acronym.

MOTION: To approve the program change made to CRMS-GISG: GIS & GeoInformatics – Certificates and MSNT by Voelker, seconded by Kuiper. 11 for, 2 abstentions. APPROVED.

New Business

Departmental Representatives for Graduate Student Government

Maxwell Silver

GSG experienced trouble filling representative slots from six programs. Department heads were contacted; Faculty Senate asked to bring this information to programs and departments. Per GSG Bylaws, programs without a representative cannot receive support from GSG including family assistance and medical emergency support.

Programs that required representatives: Advanced Manufacturing, Electrical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Physics, Space Resources, and Underground Construction and Tunneling.

Adjourn

Sebnem Duzgun

Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to mgreen1@mines.edu one week prior.