

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
November 23, 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)       | P | 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**

|   |                         |   |                      |   |                      |   |                            |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| A | Tracy Gardner (Trustee) | P | Rick Holz (AA)       | P | Paul Myskiw (RO)     | P | Colin Terry (Student Life) |
| P | Sam Spiegel (Trefny)    | P | Ethan Lewellin (USG) | A | Maxwell Silver (GSG) | P | Mara Green (AA)            |
| A | Vibhuti Dave (UGS)      | A | Tim Barbari (OGS)    | P | Lori Kester (EM)     | P | Carol E. Smith (LB)        |
| P | Jenn Drumm (CASA)       | P | Deb Jordan (Trefny)  |   |                      |   |                            |

**Special Guest(s):** Tina Gianquitto (HASS), Brandon Dugan (GP), Annette Pilkington (Director, Office of Women in Science), Savannah Allshouse (ORA), John Bradford (Vice Provost, Office of Global Initiatives and Business)

**Welcome**

Sebnem Duzgun

**Academic Affairs**

Rick Holz

Holz wished faculty and Senators a restful Thanksgiving Holiday; noted there has been an increase in COVID cases in the last few weeks. Mask requirements have been announced for Jefferson County and Denver. An updated mask policy will be sent out in coordination with Jefferson County’s mask policy being implemented for all indoor spaces except for athletic events. Department heads have been notified of the increased COVID cases and have been asked to consider alternative plans for finals due to students not feeling well or being quarantined.

The President announced the week of 12/20 as non-work days.

AA was asked to address Faculty concerns regarding the Denver Post article; faculty are concerned regarding lack of transparency, concerns of issues of discrimination, and concerns regarding the culture of the athletics department. The incident was investigated within hours of being reported. Student Life, the President’s Office, and Academic Affairs were notified along with Human Resources. Interviews took place with students, the coach, and the professor involved. Immediate disciplinary actions were taken, a written apology was disseminated, and the athletic director and Human Resources director provided apologies and resources to address any concerns from the class. No student athletes were involved. A statement was not made due to personnel issues being handled with the faculty and staffs’ best interests in mind. Issues of discrimination were addressed and looked at in the investigation and interview process; consensus was reached that this was not a racial matter but an issue where an individual lost their temper and behaved unprofessionally.

Holz noted that academics comes first at Mines, and athletes’ ability to compete and participate in a sport.

Suggestion made to refer faculty and Senators to the policies at Mines that are applicable for situations like these, and why a personnel issue cannot be reported.

Question raised on whether the statements made in the article were true and how the incident came to the attention of the administration; it was noted that the article was factual, the athletic director became aware of the incident and reported this to Dan Fox and HR was then notified. The investigation occurred the same day. Additional question raised regarding the BIPOC at Mines Instagram page and the overall culture of athletics and how the confidence was built in the investigation that there were not racial elements; the initial incident related to BIPOC at Mines was investigated by an external individual. HR conducted interviews and are trained to ask questions to identify bias. A final question was raised on the scale of students and media involved and if there has been discussion in the administration on the publicity distinguishing this case from others; a public statement had been discussed by the administration with pros and cons assessed, much of the investigation was conducted prior to the Denver Post article having been posted.

Comment made on the public nature of the event, and working on assuring these events do not continue to happen and making a culture where this does not happen.

### Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw noted the early holiday for the week of 12/20 will provide a short window to submit grades; faculty are encouraged to turn in accurate grades in time to complete end-of-term processes prior to the holidays.

Myskiw asked faculty to consider adding a waitlist to their sections as a method of handling student demand for courses. The waitlist process allows a course to have prioritized notification in an automated fashion, the course would be available to waitlisted students within 24-hours of a student dropping the course. Suggestion made to have the waitlist option as default; Myskiw stated that waitlists are up to the department. An automated waitlist process would not be an additional burden on faculty due to removal of the registration action form request.

### Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2021

Sebnem Duzgun

**MOTION:** To approve the Faculty Senate minutes of November 9, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

### Undergraduate Council

Jeff King

Approved Undergraduate Courses have been listed on the last page of these minutes.

#### 1.1 HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

[CIM 10/5; UGC 10/27]

**1 program change:** MIN-ESS: Minor in Environment and Sustainability Studies

*The revised text contains an updated description of the minor (not substantively different from the original). The number and distribution of credits has not changed, but we have removed the required "Capstone" course. We have also made the following changes:*

*introduced the following potential credit option to align the program with signature student experience opportunities: "Student involvement in campus sustainability initiatives, student environmental groups, and other activities that complement the ESS minor's coursework, may count as credit toward the minor (in consultation with the ESS director)."*

*Suggest (but do not require) students take Global Studies: Environment.*

#### 1.2 CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING

[CIM 9/28; UGC 11/10]

**1 program change:** BS-CHE: BS in Chemical Engineering  
*Additional electives added to help students complete graduation requirements.*

### 1.3 **METALLURGICAL & MATERIALS ENGINEERING**

[CIM 9/29; UGC 11/10]

**2 program changes:** BS-MME: BS in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering  
*Addition of on course to distributed science list (CSCI101) to allow students to broaden technical experience in preparation for multidisciplinary careers. Course was initially approved on a case-by-case basis; change will make clear to students what additional options are available.*

MIN-MME: Minor in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering

*This change deletes one course and rennumbers one course in the minor to reflect changes that were approved in the major program two years ago. Not changing the minor program at the same time as the major was an oversight that we are correcting now. The change requires students to take at least 4 credits of 300- or 400- level electives (instead of 3 before) in order to meet the minimum credits for a minor. The course flow is only a suggestion, not requirement, and only non-majors can take the minor. The only expected impact is that students may have to take 1-2 more credits than 18 total credits for the minor depending on the number of credits granted by the courses they choose.*

### 1.4 **QUANTITATIVE BIOSCIENCES AND ENGINEERING**

[CIM 9/28; UGC 11/10]

**1 program change:** BS-QBE: Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering  
*Moving CBEN120 to the spring semester of the students' 1st year will allow majors to experience a full year of biology versus splitting the two semesters by a year. This will also allow for innovative future curriculum changes such as adding a combined 110-120 honors section where students can be exposed to a yearlong course based undergraduate research experience. The move will also allow the QBE program to predict student enrollments earlier. To accommodate this move we have shifted the physics sequence back one semester. (PHGN1 fall sophomore year and PHGN 2 spring sophomore year). We have spoken with Physics about this change and are in support of their plans to expand their Studio Physics capacity.*

*The faculty would like to have Math201 as a co-req for BIOL300, which deals with biological data analysis which aligns nicely with Math201. The QBE faculty have informed the Math department about the proposed move.*

**MOTION:** To approve the undergraduate program changes listed in items 1.1 through 1.4 in an omnibus vote by King, seconded by Kuiper. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

#### **Ombudsperson Office Proposal**

Tina Gianquitto

Brandon Dugan

The initial idea for an ombuds office was presented to Faculty Senate in April 2021, feedback included additional stakeholders being addressed on campus and receiving their feedback. The subcommittee met with Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Government, other entities, and Mines' Community alliances.

The motivation for an ombuds office included: building trust across campus, providing an avenue to improve mental health, strive to resolve issues early and locally; need and desire for informal channels to support faculty, staff, and students experiencing concerning situations, and broad support across campus including USG, GSG, and Mines' Community Alliances. Guiding principles for an ombuds office included: independence, neutrality and impartiality, confidentiality, and informality. Independence from departments, offices, programs, and portfolios; the ombuds' reports would be aggregated and anonymized data reported to the highest levels. Neutrality and impartiality to ensure a fair and equitable environment with no alignment with any visitor. Confidentiality through creation of a safe space, strict confidence, with exceptions made for risk of physical harm or by court order. Informality would be accomplished by lack of written records and ombuds not participating in investigations or legal hearings.

Ombudspersons would be representative of diverse identities, formal training, and a three-year renewable term in which the individual can receive university-level service.

Gianquitto provided a summary of community responses and questions that would need to be addressed. If approved, a committee would be formed for an implementation phase to work out the details of who can serve as an Ombudsperson, how the office will interface with Title IX and/or DI&A, what the reporting structure will look like, and what the added service load or compensation would look like and how equity will be assured across multiple Ombudspersons.

Question raised on anonymous aggregated reports but lack of written records; Dugan stated that the written reports will be anonymized without specific entities or names included in the report. The Ombudsperson would go through specialized training for these notes; notes are made in this style if the notes are later subpoenaed.

Note made on the workload expected of the Ombudsperson and what compensation would be made for the work done; this would be directed toward the implementation committee to research what other universities are doing for their ombuds offices. Summer compensation was also noted as this office would operate year-round. Suggestion made for using a timesheet mechanism to receive data on workload.

Comment made on hiring an external individual for the position of Ombudsperson to further address this independence and concerns of bias.

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

#### Online Course Statistics

Sam Spiegel

Spiegel provided a brief overview of Mines Online and current online course statistics. President Johnson laid out a vision for Mines Online in 2017, in 2018 infrastructure and personnel were organized, and in 2019 and 2020 training and accreditation began (Mines submitted for its first level of accreditation in late 2017).

The online approval process follows the residential process with exceptions for early market studies and review by Mines Online to refine and target portfolios and resources, the Provost and Vice President for Global Initiatives reviews proposals, and there are defined and required development and teaching processes for online programs and courses once approved. The development timeline suggests faculty plan on around eight hours for each hour of course time. The collaborative design process takes most faculty about 140 hours of development time with a vast amount of faculty completing their build in about fourteen weeks. These are then reviewed against Mines Online Course Design Standards by another faculty member and Mines Online member.

Mines currently has twenty-two launched degrees (1 PhD, 2 MS, and 19 certificates), nine CPES short courses, and six certificates and two MS degrees in development. 122 courses have been built, thirty-three courses are delayed in development, around nine courses have been started but are not completed, and four courses are mostly built but had no passed Mines Online standards. In 2019-2021 a total of sixty-two online degrees were awarded at Mines. A total of 1,052 students are in Mines online (some of these may include double counting), as of Fall 2021 570 students are in graduate courses and 482 students in undergraduate courses (these numbers include residential and fully online students, and may include double counting).

Spiegel reported that Mines' online students are performing at comparable levels with the residential population. A survey has been sent to all Mines' alumni, with over 400 responses. Alumni appear interested in exploring online learning at Mines.

Comment made on undergraduate students taking eight-week graduate courses and this causing a challenge; Mines Online has been in discussion of better advising residential students on taking eight-week, fully online courses and the workload associated with these courses. The Registrar's Office makes this clear to students at registration. Online courses have also been developed for residential students in the sixteen-week format; most residential online courses are being built for summer offerings to not run the full sixteen weeks.

Question raised on how Mines reached the online eight-week semesters; research had been done on a variety of research on other universities offering STEM online courses. Variations included 10.5-12-week semesters. Dropouts were significantly higher in sixteen-week online programs designed for professionals as opposed to eight weeks. Spiegel noted the hardest part being the intensity of Mines courses and from a faculty standpoint figuring out where to focus learning and rigor.

Comment made on the registration process for online students; a frustration was providing students with an ID to enter the registration system; this process took additional time for non-degree seeking students. Work is being done with ITS, the Registrar's Office, and Admissions to streamline the process further.

#### Online Ballot Results

As of 12/7, Faculty Senate conducted two online ballots.

Senate voted on the distribution of the "October 8 Incident" letter, sent to faculty on 12/2. Results: unanimous approval.

Senate voted on the graduation list for Fall 2021 undergraduate and graduate students. This list is voted on prior to approval by the Board of Trustees and was approved 12/2 by Senate, 12/3 by the Board. Results: unanimous approval.

#### **Adjourn**

Sebnem Duzgun

Meeting adjourned: 3:30 pm. Executive session began at 3:30 pm.

Next Meeting: December 14, 2:00-4:00 pm via Zoom. December 14<sup>th</sup> will be an executive session and will not be recorded.

#### **New courses approved by Undergraduate Council**

CBEN372: Introduction to Bioenergy

HASS319: Introduction to Voice, Movement, and Improvisation in Performance and Presentation

BIOL300: Introduction to Quantitative Biology I

HASS302: Intermediate Short Fiction Writing Workshop

HASS483: Intellectual Property for Engineers and Artists  
MAED465: Capstone Curriculum Design I  
SCED465: Capstone Curriculum Design II

**Course changes approved by Undergraduate Council**

CBEN422: Chemical Engineering Flow Assurance  
CEEN360: Introduction to Construction Engineering  
CSCI477: Elements of Games and Game Development  
EBGN437: Regional Economics  
HASS401: Advanced Poetry Writing Workshop  
HASS408: Creative Nonfiction Writing: Life Stories  
MATH310: Introduction to Mathematical Modeling  
MTGN219: Art and Science of Glassblowing  
MTGN281: Introduction to Phase Equilibria in Materials Systems  
MTGN315: Electrical Properties and Applications of Materials  
MTGN333: Introduction to Bladesmithing  
MTGN334: Chemical Processing of Materials  
MTGN348: Microstructural Development  
MTGN350: Statistical Process Control and Design of Experiments  
MTGN430: Physical Chemistry of Iron and Steelmaking  
MTGN442: Engineering Alloys  
MTGN451: Corrosion Engineering  
MTGN464: Forging and Forming  
MTGN465: Mechanical Properties of Ceramics  
MTGN475: Metallurgy of Welding  
MTGN475L: Metallurgy of Welding Laboratory  
PEGN440: Introduction to the Digital Oilfield  
GEGN316: Field Geology  
HASS400: Advanced Short Fiction Writing Workshop

**Course Deactivations approved by Undergraduate Council**

CSCI447: Scientific Visualization  
HASS300: Creative Writing: Fiction  
MTGN311: Structure of Materials  
MTGN311L: Structure of Materials Laboratory  
MTGN351: Metallurgical and Materials Thermodynamics  
MTGN381: Introduction to Phase Equilibria in Materials Systems  
MTGN407: Steel Bar Manufacturing  
MTGN412: Ceramic Engineering  
MTGN415: Electrical Properties and Applications of Materials  
MTGN450: Statistical Process Control and Design of Experiments  
MTGN461L: Transport Phenomena and Reactor Design Laboratory  
MTGN463: Polymer Engineering  
MTGN466: Materials Design: Synthesis, Characterization, and Selection  
CBEN306: Anatomy and Physiology: Bone, Muscle, and Brain  
CBEN309: Anatomy and Physiology: Bone, Muscle, and Brain Laboratory