# Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES April 6, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Attendees:

Voting Members: 22 total (12 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present

Р	Bettina Voelker (Chair)	Р	Christine Baker (LB)	Р	Andy Osborne (NSE)	Р	Owen Hildreth (ME)
Р	Eric Anderson (HSE)	Р	Karin Leiderman (AMS)	Р	Jamal Rostami (MN)	Р	Michael Heeley (EB)
Α	Ebru Bozdag (GP)	Α	Juan Lucena (EDS)	Α	Jim Ranville (GC)	Р	Luis Zerpa (PE)
Α	Geoff Brennecka (ML)	Р	Zhexuan Gong (PH)	Α	Danica Roth (GE)	Р	Qi Han (CS)
Р	Elizabeth Davis (HASS)	Р	Dave Marr (CBE)	Р	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	Р	Lori Tunstall (UCTE / CEE)
Р	Christine Morrison (CH)	Α	Salman Mohagheghi				
			(EE)				

**Other Regular Attendees and Guests** 

Р	Tim Barbari (OGS)	Р	Carolyn Freedman (OGS)	Α	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	Р	Mara Green (AA)
Α	Jennie Kenney (AA)	Α	Denise Winn-Bower (PE)	Α	Paul Myskiw (RO)	Α	Kendra Stansbury (RO)

**Special Guest(s)**: Tony Petrella (ME)

# **Briefings and Information Items**

Office of Graduate Studies

Tim Barbari

Tina Voelker

**GPA** Requirements

Welcome

Currently, Mines has a 3.0 cumulative GPA standard to graduate. All programs require a minimum of 3.0, but the cumulative becomes muddle with students in multiple programs. Feedback sought on offering graduate certificates if the program GPA is not 3.0 and if cumulative and program GPA can be separated. Catalog language could be interpreted that the GPA for the program credential being sought should be a 3.0, not only the cumulative GPA.

 Question on Mines awarding certificates to students with less than a 3.0; Barbari noted some cases where the graduate certificate was not rewarded due to the GPA of the certificate not meeting 3.0.

Catalog does not explicitly separate cumulative and program GPA; Barbari sought to formalize the language for the 2023-24 Catalog. Barbari noted the program GPA would be in addition to the cumulative GPA, and cumulative could be interpreted for academic standing.

Comment made on some students' struggle to raise their cumulative GPA should the student switch to a program that suits them better; the program specific GPA may relieve pressure from students. Comment made on students' ability to take a course outside of the degree program and take risks without causing detriment to the GPA. Barbari noted students' current ability to audit courses may not put the same pressure to learn course material.

Barbari noted the Graduate Catalog does not have a grade replacement policy; may be a mechanism to allow for course substitution if a student fall below the 3.0 but has paid tuition for ten courses. May assist in the probation dismissal process.

Registrar's Office Paul Myskiw



Myskiw not present, brief report provided by Barbari.

Changes made to 400- and 500-level courses for combined students versus non-combined students; Spring 2022 was transition semester with approach to forms and processing. Noted that students in a combined program were going through the same process as non-combined program undergraduate students; miscommunication had been addressed and corrected for Fall 2022 as of 4/6.

Barbari noted students in the combined program should have at least one semester where the student is in two programs, the Bachelor's degree primary and Master's degree secondary. Students graduating in Spring should apply for admission into the combined degree program in the Fall prior, students graduating in Fall or beyond should apply in the Spring prior.

Comment made on combined students being limited to taking fifteen credits and needed to reach out to the Registrar's Office to have status fixed; issue being addressed as students come in.

Comment made on graduate course prerequisites only being listed in the Catalog and not restricting registration. Issues noted on students taking a second part of a course without having completed the first part. Note made on system being unable to differentiate between graduate and undergraduate prerequisites; several graduate students were not Mines undergraduate students and would be barred due to undergraduate-level prerequisites on graduate courses.

### **Graduate Student Government**

Maxwell Silver

No updates from Graduate Student Government.

Curriculum Item(s) for Vote – from 3/2/22

## 1.1 ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Ian Lange

[CIM 2/17]

**1 program change**: MSPHD-ECO: MS & PhD — Mineral & Energy Economics Adding language to the program to encourage applicants to the Mineral and Energy Economics (MEE) program by facilitating applications from Western Colorado University's Bachelors of Energy Management program. The program will allow these students to complete the non-thesis Masters in MEE in one year by setting specific course requirements at Western Colorado University.

**MOTION**: To approve the program change in Economics and Business to MSPHD-ECO: MS & PhD – Mineral & Energy Economics by Heeley, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.

# 1.2 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Tony Petrella

[CIM 2/16]

**1 program change**: MSPHD-MECH: MS & PhD – Mechanical Engineering Adding Online Modality to support an Online Mechanical Engineering Masters Non-Thesis degree. Actual start date would be Spring 2023, but not available as an option for the drop-down menu.

Council noted the program may considered a test case with additional questions and comments after the first semester is completed in the new modality. Logistical problems may occur that had not been



anticipated and would be noted. Petrella had ben asked to dedicate focus to the online modality effort in ME.

Suggestion made to present updates to Graduate Council on the status of the online modality following a few years of admission.

**MOTION**: To approve the program change in Mechanical Engineering to MSPHD-MECH: MS & PhD – Mechanical Engineering by Davis, seconded by Morrison. 13 for, 1 abstention.

Continuing Curriculum Item(s) – from 3/16/22

# 2.1 MEHCANICAL ENGINEERING

Dinesh Mehta

[CIM 3/1]

**1 program change**: MSPHD-ORWE: Operations Research with Engineering Routine changes based on Catalog updates from MATH and EBGN (from core courses: removal of MATH531, addition of MATH424).

#### 2.2 MINING ENGINEERING

Jürgen Brune

[CIM 3/14; Provost 3/14]

**1 new course**: MNGN582: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING II This is the second course in Tailings Management. The first course is MNGN581

Due to recent, catastrophic tailings dam failures, mining constituents have a significant interest in tailings facilities design and engineering. Both courses have been offered in short course format with very good registrations (25 to >50 students per class) twice during 2021. Registrants were from around the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Mexico, New Caledonia, Peru, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, and the U.S. The course delivery has been virtual using Zoom and Canvas, and student satisfaction has been assessed as high. The MN department requests approval to offer the second in the series of courses for academic graduate credit. The interest from the industry is high, and MN expects to recruit from the student registrants into the graduate degree programs in MN at Mines. This course is aligned with the following Mines@150 aspirations: 1) A go-to place for use-inspired research and innovation needed to solve challenges facing industry, society and the environment, 2) A Leader in educating STEM students and professionals, and 3) A preferred partner for talent, solutions and life-long learning.

#### **New Business**

Request for Extension for GEGN598: Point Cloud Data Analysis in Earth Science and Engineering Asked to provide course information in the Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) system for Fall 2022 Addendum.

# **Council Representation**

Tina Voelker

Voelker presented Council members with a straw poll on Graduate Council membership as follows:

"Graduate Council recommends to Senate a Bylaw change by which any interdisciplinary graduate program offering both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees can elect a voting representative to



Graduate Council. The program must inform the Graduate Council chair of the name of the representative before the first Graduate Council meeting of each academic year. If no name is provided, the program will not have a voting representative in that academic year."

Comment made on the effect on Council quorum where programs may be interested in one meeting, but do not attend the next.

Question on dual-membership in which a department representative may also represent an IGP;
it was noted that the current Bylaw language can be interpreted as only one representative per department alongside the five IGPs listed.

Voelker asked Council members to bring Council membership to departments and provide feedback.

# <u>Curriculum Approval – Courses and Programs</u>

Tina Voelker

Voelker noted the number of course approvals can interrupt graduate-related concerns; suggestion made to be more aggressive with the consent agenda with Councilors pre-screening items in advance.

Green noted the CIM system will send an FYI email when a change or new submission has been made.

Voelker suggested a document for new Council members on the process of Council and informational items.

**Adjourn** Tina Voelker

Meeting adjourned: 5:02 pm.

Next meeting: April 20, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom.

<u>Consent Agenda</u> The following proposals will <u>not</u> be discussed unless specifically requested by Council. Please review the following items. With no objections, approval is implied and items will be processed accordingly.

3.1 Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2022 Tina Voelker

## 3.2 **ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**

Michael Heelev

[CIM 4/4]

1 course change: EBGN559: SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYTICS

Due to some new faculty hires that will be joining in the fall we will be changing the content of these ETM classes and would like to change the names to reflect the new content. EBGN559 SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT which is being offered in the fall. We would like to change the name to "Supply Chain Analytics".

