

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 August 23, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in Green Center 200A and Zoom

Attendees:

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

P	Jeff King (Chair)	P	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE/MN)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)
P	Ebru Bozdag (GP)	P	Brandon Dugan (GP)	P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Cynthia Norrgran (CBE)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)	A	Lawrence Wiencke (PH)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)
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 (Mines Online)	A	Emmelia Ashton (USG)	A	Maxwell Silver (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)
P	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	A	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Angela Dunn (Mines Online)		

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Jeff King

Academic Affairs Announcements

Rick Holz

Incoming Class

Holz reported 1,526 incoming freshman students the morning of 8/23. Twenty-seven of those students are going to France to study abroad for their first semester. A total of 1,499 new freshman students will be on campus for Fall 2022. There are 133 transfer students. Holz noted numbers may shift upon Census. Deans and department heads are working to assure all sections are covered for Fall 2022.

New Hires

Mines welcomed over thirty-five new faculty on Friday, 8/19. Departments reported burnout due to cluster hiring, clusters were not done for 2022. Hiring for tenure track faculty focused on departments that were very understaffed including Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Hires were made for Mechanical Engineering due to large incoming class and majors. There is a list of fifteen teaching faculty, Holz working with finance to consider moving forward with searches and make sure the list is accounted for in the FY24 budget.

- **Question** on adjunct budget; Holz reported adjunct budget increasing markedly over the last several years. The increase in undergraduates does factor into the increase in adjunct budget.

The FY23 budget was planned conservatively due to shifting numbers of students during Census. The adjunct budget had been cut to balance the budget.

Holz reported a drop in non-thesis masters. Low unemployment rate can lead to a decrease in the number of students coming back or wanting to pursue an advanced degree. Around fifty percent of Mines' non-thesis master's students are continuing students in 4+1 programs. When looking at the projected overall revenue, it appears to fall flat in comparison to the previous year.

Registrar's Office Announcements

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw thanked faculty for assisting through the registration process and creating additional sections. Myskiw reported 2,374 total students between Calculus I, II, III, and 213. Adjuncts for all sections of those four classes are still being discussed.

Long-term discussions on course sections was advised. After Census, the Registrar's Office will provide the academic units a projection of sections on what students registered in for freshman and continuing students by major based on 2021 enrollment to provide a plan for Spring 2023.

- **Question** on students unable to register for a full load and if this was worked out; freshmen investigated schedules prior to release on 8/15 and saw only 9.0 credits in some cases. Once the schedules were released 8/15, students were registered in at least 12.0 credits. Almost all are registered in the 13.5+ range.

The Registrar's Office will track down potential no-shows and remove names from registration over the next week.

The final add date is 8/29 and it is no longer Census Day. The Registrar's Office will continue to send communications to students and faculty regarding this change. Faculty have every right to not allow a student to register late following the first week.

- **Question** on students registering for 12.0 credits and student ability to graduate on time; Myskiw stated students register for 16.5 on average. This has been taken into consideration. Several students had 20-30 hours of coursework and could afford a semester of less than 16.5 credits. The Registrar's Office paid attention to students not bringing in this additional course load and made sure students had a higher credit threshold.

Holz noted that each year there are not enough seats for courses that do not have prerequisites.

Myskiw reported additional emphasis on both spring and fall of the first year, rather than fall start to predict sections for both semesters and maintain course sequences.

Appointments and Confirmations

Jeff King

Appoint the Secretary of the Faculty Senate

Cristian Ciobanu was nominated as the Faculty Senate Secretary for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

MOTION: To appoint Cristian Ciobanu as the Faculty Senate Secretary for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Dugan, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously.

Appoint Undergraduate, Graduate, and Research Council Chairs

Brandon Dugan was nominated as Undergraduate Council chair, Bettina Voelker was nominated as Graduate Council chair, and Sid Saleh was nominated as Research Council chair for the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

MOTION: To appoint Brandon Dugan as Undergraduate Council chair, Bettina Voelker as Graduate Council chair, and Sid Saleh as Research Council chair for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Ciobanu. 13 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Confirm and Establish the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The proposed Faculty Senate Executive Committee membership for the 2022-2023 Academic Year would be composed of:

- Jeff King, Faculty Senate President,
- Cristian Ciobanu, Faculty Senate Secretary,
- Brandon Dugan, Undergraduate Council chair,
- Bettina Voelker, Graduate Council chair, and
- Sid Saleh, Research Council chair.

MOTION: To confirm the membership and establish the Senate Executive Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously.

Senate Committees Academic Faculty Nomination

Discussion on the nomination process, additional vacancies on University committees, and nomination of a Senate chair for the Survey Committee.

MOTION: To nominate the presented Academic Faculty volunteers to fill the Faculty Senate committee vacancies of the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Comment raised on Readmissions Committee vacancies. Senate recommended amendment of the previous motion to move through the individual committee vacancy nominations.

MOTION: To amend the previous motion and proceed through the individual committee vacancy nominations by Horan, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Readmissions Committee

Readmissions Committee initially reported a total of four vacancies. Terry provided corrections; Readmissions reported a total of seven vacancies. The committee will not be meeting until later in the semester, nomination for vacancies not urgent.

Readmissions Committee nominations tabled.

Library Committee

Library Committee initially reported with two vacancies, corrections provided.

Library Committee nominations tabled.

Faculty Oversight on Sports and Athletics Committee

Faculty Oversight on Sports and Athletics Committee reported a total of three vacancies. Three faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Kara Metzger, Teaching Assistant Professor, Chemistry,
- Polina Brodsky Ringler, Teaching Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, and
- Kate Youmans, Associate Teaching Professor; Engineering, Design, and Society.

MOTION: To nominate K. Metzger, P. Ringler, and K. Youmans for the three vacancies on the Faculty Oversight on Sports and Athletics Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Survey Committee

Ebru Bozdag was nominated as chair of the Faculty Senate Survey Committee; the chair will choose volunteers to fill the remaining three vacancies on the committee.

MOTION: To approve Ebru Bozdag as chair of the Faculty Senate Survey Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Academic Standards Committee

Academic Standards Committee reported two vacancies. Two faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Susan Reynolds, Teaching Faculty, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and
- Stephen Geer, Assistant Teaching Professor, Mechanical Engineering.

MOTION: To nominate S. Reynolds and S. Geer for the two vacancies on the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

University Committees Academic Faculty Nomination

Biosafety Committee

Biosafety Committee reported two vacancies. Two faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Nikki Farnsworth, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering, and
- Christian Beren, Teaching Assistant Professor, Chemistry.

MOTION: To nominate N. Farnsworth and C. Beren for the two vacancies on the University Biosafety Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Dugan, seconded by Ciobanu. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee

Budget Committee vacancy nomination tabled.

Calendar Committee

Calendar Committee reported one vacancy. One faculty member was nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Justin Shaffer, Teaching Associate Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering.

MOTION: To nominate J. Shaffer for the single vacancy on the University Calendar Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Committee

Conflict of Interest Committee reported one vacancy. One faculty member was nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Xiaoli Zhang, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering.

MOTION: To nominate X. Zhang for the single vacancy on the University Conflict of Interest Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Grievance Committee

Faculty Grievance Committee initially reported four vacancies. Correction provided.

Faculty Grievance Committee nomination tabled.

Faculty Handbook Committee

Faculty Handbook Committee reported two vacancies. Two faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Ilya Tsvankin, University Distinguished Professor, Geophysics, and
- Amelia Read, Teaching Assistant Professor, Computer Science.

MOTION: To nominate I. Tsvankin and A. Read for the two vacancies on the University Faculty Handbook Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Dugan, seconded by Ciobanu. Motion passed unanimously.

Promotion and Tenure Committee

Promotion and Tenure Committee nomination tabled.

Safety Committee

Safety Committee reported two vacancies. Two faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Timothy Strathmann, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and
- Ryan Richards, Professor, Chemistry.

MOTION: To nominate T. Strathmann and R. Richards for the two vacancies on the University Safety Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Student Media Board Committee

Student Media Board Committee reported two vacancies. Two faculty were nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Eliza Buhner, Associate Teaching Professor; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and
- Scott Strong, Teaching Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

MOTION: To nominate E. Buhner and S. Strong for the two vacancies on the University Student Media Board Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Teaching Faculty Promotion Committee

Teaching Faculty Promotion Committee tabled.

Tech Fee Committee

Tech Fee Committee reported one vacancy. One faculty member was nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Meenakshi Singh, Assistant Professor, Physics.

MOTION: To nominate M. Singh for the single vacancy on the University Tech Fee Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Renew Ad Hoc Committees

Online Standards Committee

Ad hoc committee had disbanded. Volunteers for chair and committee members needed. Around six to eight courses require review from the committee, population of the committee reported urgent.

MOTION: To approve the renewal of the ad hoc Online Standards Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Dugan, seconded by Norrgran. 13 for, 1 abstention.

- **Question** on placing Online Standards within the Academic Faculty Bylaws; King noted an ad hoc committee can be moved into the Bylaws with a Senate vote. Senate committees do not require a vote from the academic faculty body.

Bylaws for the committee have been drafted.

Core Curriculum Committee

MOTION: To approve the renewal of the ad hoc Core Curriculum Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Dugan, seconded by Ciobanu. Motion passed unanimously.

Instruction Effectiveness Implementation Committee

Committee provided overview of proposal on April 12, 2022 ([click here for the 4/12 minutes](#)) and April 26, 2022 ([click here for the 4/26 minutes](#)). Implementation committee tasked with assessing a feasible means of implementing the proposal.

MOTION: To approve the renewal of the ad hoc Instruction Effectiveness Implementation Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Carney, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

COVID Impacts on Junior Faculty

Committee would require a volunteer to chair.

MOTION: To approve the renewal of the ad hoc COVID Impacts on Junior Faculty Committee for the 2022-2023 Academic Year by Horan, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

Common Exam Policy Change Recommendation

Paul Myskiw
Vibhuti Dave

Undergraduate Council had established a subcommittee to address common exam concerns and policy. Three proposals were provided, Council declined taking up the issue. With the subcommittee's three proposals, Myskiw and Dave were tasked with compiling all three proposals into a recommendation. Myskiw and Dave met with faculty and other stakeholders on campus.

Recommendation focused on first- and second-year courses, only, with an enrollment threshold of 125 students. Priority placement for common exams provided to one-hundred-level courses followed by two-hundred-level courses. Other requests would be considered based on space availability. Discussion in Undergraduate Council revolved around the enrollment threshold. The enrollment trends over the past two years were broken down and assessed within one hundred and two hundred level courses.

Recommendation provided information on Testing Center accommodations; change would provide the Testing Center with more latitude on when common exams are administered.

Recommendation would limit exams to no more than three, not including the final exam.

- **Question** on final exam policy; Myskiw reported final exams are separate from common exams and would not follow the same policy recommendations presented. Final exam schedules are created following census and are based on actual enrollment and whether faculty want a final exam.
- **Question** if two courses could combine to reach the proposed enrollment number of 125 students for common exam scheduling; Myskiw noted it may be counterintuitive to combine two distinct sections with variable teaching methods into a singular common exam. The policy had not allowed this in the past but did not prohibit it either.

Other requests outside of the enrollment number of 125 would be considered by the Registrar's Office based on space availability.

- **Question** on where the common exam policy is located; the policy is in both the Procedures Manual and the Catalog.

Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates

Core Curriculum Committee

Joseph Horan
Vibhuti Dave

Core Curriculum Committee presented its work April 26, 2022 ([click here for the 4/26 minutes](#)) and its updated charge was approved May 10, 2022 ([click here for the 5/10 minutes](#)) so that the committee could work over the summer.

Committee looked closely at credits and considered lowering credits and assessed the core based on competitiveness in reference to other universities. Committee to push for faculty input during the process. Committee worked with department leadership over the summer to identify issues within the core.

Committee intent to hold faculty forums to engage faculty. Committee to provide website for participation and feedback. Data collected to be presented to department heads and faculty for a sense of what is being said about the core curriculum proposal.

- **Question** if a survey has been performed on undergraduate students and their interpretation of the proposed changes to the core; committee acknowledged student buy-in and had a list of stakeholders including Undergraduate Student Government. Committee would like Senate and faculty to weigh-in first.

Senator recommended Undergraduate Council presentation and feedback.

- **Comment** on lack of visibility of proposals; committee to work on disseminating information through a website and committee member participation in faculty and department meetings.

Undergraduate Council

Brandon Dugan

Undergraduate Council commences 8/24.

Graduate Council

Tina Voelker

Graduate Council commences 9/14. Council membership Bylaw change in discussion.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Faculty Senate to conduct business and working meetings. Business meetings include action items, voting items, and important discussions. Working meetings are unofficial, voting items not to be presented unless completely necessary. Working meetings to allot additional time for discussions and presentations outside of business meetings.

Adjourn

Jeff King

Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:51 pm.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, via Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to mgreen1@mines.edu one week prior.