

Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 7, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 23 total (12 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Bettina Voelker (Chair)	P	Christine Baker (LB)	P	Andy Osborne (NSE)	P	Owen Hildreth (ME)
P	Eric Anderson (HSE)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	A	Jamal Rostami (MN)	P	Michael Heeley (EB)
P	Ebru Bozdag (GP)	P	Juan Lucena (EDS)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Luis Zerpa (PE)
P	Kester Clarke (MME)	P	Uwe Greife (PH)	A	Danica Roth (GE)	P	Bo Wu (CS)
P	Jay Straker (HASS)	P	Dave Marr (CBE)	P	Liam Witteman (GSG)	A	Lori Tunstall (CEE)
P	Christine Morrison (CH)	A	Salman Mohaghegi (EE)	P	Gabriel Walton (UCTE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Carolyn Freedman (OGS)	A	Jane Ko (AA)	P	Mara Green (AA)
A	Jennie Kenney (AA)	A	Denise Winn-Bower (PE)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	A	Roxane Aungst (OGS)
A	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)	P	Angela Dunn (Mines Online)	A	Wendy Adams (HNRS)		

Special Guest(s): Priscilla Nelson (MN)

Welcome

Tina Voelker

Councilors and regular attendees introduced themselves. Voelker welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the academic year. Voelker provided brief review of Council’s role, how changes are processed, and what Council had been working on. Voelker informed Council that membership discussions have been directed to Faculty Senate for consideration.

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Tim Barbari

Barbari noted most policy changes brought to Council are from OGS regarding Catalog language and information. Council members were encouraged to bring concerns to OGS and the Registrar’s Office. Reduced registration brought forward as a concern due to administrative burden on several units. Conversations have begun regarding tuition.

Councilor suggested conversations regarding tuition and registration be brought to Council in advance due to the strong impact on research groups; these groups plan in advance, Councilor suggested long-range proposal.

- **Question** on 400-level and lower courses for graduate degrees; HLC visit in Spring 2022, HLC guidelines and accepted practices out of alignment with how Mines’ degree requirements are approached. Discussions occurring with deans and Provost.

Registrar’s Office

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw reported on last year’s business item to update the curriculum structure to identify interdisciplinary programs within the curriculum. Registrar’s Office worked over the summer and have a report written that will pull the advisor’s home department that they are associated with. Myskiw asked Councilors to report any instances that do not appear in the report.

Report disseminated to all schedulers and program managers over the summer.

Graduate Student Government

Liam Witteman

Witteaman reported on GSG plan to host more townhalls and engage with graduate student populations on a variety of topics and gain feedback.

New Business

Committee Form Alignment

Tim Barbari

Confusion on the language appearing within the Catalog and on the forms used to form a dissertation or thesis committee for PhD and MS. The form had been updated independently of the language within the Catalog. The form did not define what home department meant, caused confusion for interdisciplinary students. The Catalog language was open ended. Minor updates proposed to the Catalog language, including better definition of “home department” to “advisor’s primary department and the program area of the minor representative”.

The PhD committee chair is responsible as the institutional representative and is not required to have familiarity with the area of research.

The forms of PhD and MS were updated to reflect committee members must be familiar with the area of study. The use of “home department” was removed from the form.

- **Question** on thesis committees requiring a chair; the form does not have a line for chair, the Catalog notes on of the thesis committee members outside of the advisor should be designated as chairperson of the committee. The goal of the proposed change would be alignment of the form and Catalog language.
- **Question** on whether thesis committee members require a PhD or need to be Mines faculty; Barbari approves all external committee members. There is not a policy. Generally, external committee members would have the same degree that the candidate is seeking. If an argument can be made based on experience, those are looked at on an individual case.

1.1 **MINING ENGINEERING**

Priscilla Nelson

[CIM 8/24, Provost 8/24]

6 new courses:

MNGN581A: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING I: INTRODUCTION

MNGN581B: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING I: TSF PLANNING AND SITING

MNGN581C: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING I: TAILINGS GEOTECHNICS

MNGN582A: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING II: TSF WATER MANAGEMENT

MNGN582B: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING II: TSF OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

MNGN582C: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING II: TSF CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION

Due to recent, catastrophic tailings dam failures, mining constituents have a significant interest in tailings facilities design and engineering. This is the first of a sequence of six courses based on short courses that been offered with very good registrations (25 to >50 students per class) in 2021 and 2022. 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 remote using Zoom and Canvas, and student satisfaction has been assessed as high. 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 the 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.

Course enrollment heavy with international students and can be viewed as a gateway into a graduate program for students working full time. Nelson noted the desire for a one-credit, five-week online option for students in the field and in industry. The Fundamentals course has been taught in an online format and as a three-credit option; Nelson reported student interest outside of the program.

- **Question** on prerequisites; Nelson reported that the courses have been taught to stand alone without need for a prerequisite. Course has heavy industry involvement with over two hundred recorded lectures from leading industry individuals and panel discussions involving industry leaders.

Concerns raised on five-week term for an online course for a Fall/Spring offering. The goal would be to offer three, five-week modules in the Fall and Spring semesters. Concern raised regarding financial aid, federal funds, VA benefits, and additional financial regulations that play into varying parts of term.

Suggestion made for a 1.5 credit, eight-week course. Nelson noted some professionals' resistance to eight- or sixteen-week courses. Concern regarding five-week terms opening the door for others to teach in varying parts of term. Councilor noted the recent push to move away from .5 credit courses.

Adjourn

Tina Voelker

Meeting adjourned: 4:57 pm.

Next meeting: September 21, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom. For agenda items, please contact Mara Green (mgreen1@mines.edu) 1 week prior.