

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
September 27, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in the Guggenheim Boardroom 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)	P	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)	A	Colin Terry (Student Life)
A	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)	A	Liam Witteman (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	A	Tim Barbari (OGS)	P	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)
P	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	A	Angela Dunn (Mines Online)	P	Andrew Herring (AA)

Special Guest(s):

**Welcome**

Jeff King

**Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2022**

Jeff King

**MOTION:** To approve the Faculty Senate minutes of September 13, 2022 by Dugan, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously.

**Academic Affairs Announcements**

Rick Holz

*Faculty Passing*

Letter notifying campus of the passing of Professor Alexei Milkov was sent 9/22. Holz noted counselling services are available on campus and encouraged faculty, students, and staff to reach out; critical that Mines' community comes together to support those impacted.

Comment made on misinformation being disseminated across campus, Holz asked faculty to review the official letter sent on 9/22.

*Testing*

First round of testing and exams completed; General Chemistry exam on 9/29. Holz noted students are becoming connected to the university, getting to know Mines and its exams.

*Faculty Participation in Homecoming Festivities*

Holz asked faculty to participate in the upcoming Homecoming festivities 10/6-8. A home football game, tailgating party, soccer, and softball all expected.

**Registrar's Office Announcements**

Paul Myskiw

Registrar's Office working on new workflow for withdrawing; specifically, for undergraduate students, graduate students would be rolled in later.

Will survey new freshmen in CSM101 on the technology students brought to campus with them to build a recommendation to students on what should be brought to class or required for freshmen. Survey had been done three years ago; reached out to departments on the electronic requirements for majors. Departments provided information on webpages. ITS has a general page, departments provide specifics.

- **Question** on students that may need financial help; remaining mindful of student needs. If the institution made technology a requirement, financial aid may cover some expenses.
- **Question** on scaling back on computer labs; there is a potential case to use general computer labs as classroom space. Comment made on programs running differently across personal devices, could be problematic.

Note made on 35,000 square feet of computer labs on campus that could be scaled back as classroom space; institution considering cloud computing but would require an internet upgrade across campus.

Interest in engaging a faculty committee on technology improvements, ITS open to working on where campus can be improved. New DUO 30-day verification notification sent out 9/27.

Comment made on assisting students in learning cloud computing and distributed computer services. Senator reported students operating in remote environments may have issues with virtual connections if operating entirely off WIFI, lab would continue to provide reliable connection for classes.

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

Senate ad hoc, standing committees, and university committee representatives asked to present a report once a month.

Senators invited to Midweek Meet and Eat and Faculty Fuel-Up ([click here for Senate events](#)); encouraged faculty to engage in an informal space.

#### Faculty Handbook Committee

Joe Horan

University Committee Representative

Committee has a mechanism for faculty to provide feedback requests on the Faculty Handbook ([click here to access the Revision Request form](#)). Committee engaged in preliminary discussion. Teaching faculty and tenure/tenure-track faculty are outlined but there is less specific language on research faculty.

#### Academic Affairs

Jennie Kenney retired from Colorado School of Mines; AA conducted search, Jane Ko to take on new position. All candidates have been notified.

#### Graduate and Undergraduate Student Government

King to speak with Undergraduate and Graduate Student government to create a more direct relationship; address concerns or questions.

#### **Senate Business—**

#### **Confirmations and Appointments**

#### University Committee Appointments

Cristian Ciobanu

### *University Promotion and Tenure*

Two additional members were added to the nominee list following 9/13 meeting. Provost Holz to select two of the six nominations provided from Senate. The following six faculty nominations were selected from the call for volunteers to fill the two vacancies on the University Promotion and Tenure committee.

- Greg Jackson (Professor, Mechanical Engineering),
- Jared Carbone (Professor, Economics and Business),
- John Spear (Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering),
- Tzahi Cath (Ben L. Fryrear Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering),
- Jessica Smith (Professor; Engineering, Design, and Society), and
- Qi Han (Professor, Computer Science).

**MOTION:** To nominate G. Jackson, J. Carbone, J. Spear, T. Cath, J. Smith, and Q. Han to be selected by Provost Holz to fill the two vacancies on the University Promotion and Tenure committee for the 2022-2023 academic year by Ciobanu, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Biosafety*

One vacancy reported for the University Biosafety committee. One faculty member was nominated from the call for volunteers.

- Owen Hildreth (Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering).

**MOTION:** To nominate O. Hildreth for the one vacancy on the University Biosafety committee for the 2022-2023 academic year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

### *Tech Fee*

One vacancy had opened for the University Tech Fee committee. Call for volunteers sent.

### Senate Committee Appointments

#### *Online Standards*

A list of volunteers selected to fill the Online Standards committee. Resolution to move the ad hoc Online Standards committee into a Senate standing committee drafted.

- Rebecca Swanson (Teaching Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics)
- Brianna Buljung (Associate Librarian, Teaching and Learning Librarian; Library)
- Gabe Walton (Associate Professor, Geology and Geological Engineering)
- Tolga Can (Teaching Professor, Computer Science)
- Soutir Bandyopadhyay (Associate Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics)
- Tony Petrella (Associate Professor, Director ME Online Programs and FEA Certificate Program, Mechanical Engineering)
- Oyvind Nilsen (Teaching Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering)
- Kevin Cannon (Assistant Professor, Geology and Geological Engineering)

**MOTION:** To nominate R. Swanson, B. Buljung, G. Walton, T. Can, S. Bandyopadhyay, T. Petrella, O. Nilsen, and K. Cannon to serve on the ad hoc Faculty Senate Online Standards committee for the 2022-2023 academic year by Ciobanu, seconded by Dugan. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Common Exam Policy**

Paul Myskiw

### Policy Change Recommendation

Comments provided by departments on the limitation to an enrollment of 125 for common exams. Myskiw reported initial number had been 130 but was decreased to create a threshold. Language within the policy would allow courses outside of the 125-enrollment threshold to hold a common exam with consideration given to space and time availability. Suggestion made to offer during non-traditional times. Graduate courses with common exams no longer have space as of two years ago.

- **Question** on prioritization of 100- and 200-level courses over 300-level courses; Myskiw reported the original intent of the common exam was to support core courses with multiple sections and larger enrollment with limited space and time on campus. Very few common exams were held outside of 100- and 200-level courses.

This change would not apply to final exams.

Comment made on the common exam start and end times being determined by the Registrar. Myskiw noted this is to provide breaks between exams; there was consideration of ending earlier to relieve strain on Testing Center. Times reliant on class size.

Myskiw clarified that, if time and space is available, courses outside of the 100- and 200-level and less than 125 student enrollment can still hold a common exam.

Policy change would be effective Spring 2023.

**MOTION:** To approve the proposed Common Exam Policy change by Dugan, seconded by Karaivanov. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Committee Business—**

### Core Curriculum Committee

(Ad Hoc Committee)

Joseph Horan

Vibhuti Dave

Resolution was presented to Undergraduate Council 9/14; Council would discuss how to move forward on 9/28. Council would see course and programmatic changes prior to Senate. Council was split between an official vote and verbal endorsement. Discussion has been more rigorous in Council. Horan noted delays will compress the timeline.

Core Curriculum committee met on 9/26. Free electives discussed, feedback provided from Transfer and CASA. All feedback can be provided to Senate if need.

Comment made on being unable to see how CASES could compare to the EBG201 course. Committee unsure of ABET requirement filled by the econ course. Committee would like to avoid removing a course from the core that departments would need. CASES would include economic considerations. EBG201 would continue in Fall 2023, CASES to be piloted for Fall 2023, only. Proposal would remain flexible to assist departments. Possibility of required elective for EBG201 for departments needing the course.

Department heads asked to review curriculum for specific courses that need to be updated, combined, or eliminated.

Comment on six versus nine free electives. Committee considered how credits are transferred in from AP, IB, and community college programs. Discrepancies can occur within departments and may impact graduation times; discussion for Registrar's Office and CASA. Free elective changes may impact double-counting language within Catalog for minors. Committee would assess comparative impact on different departments. Consideration for the negative impacts of decreasing free electives on the music program, athletics, and Signature Student Experiences.

Senator noted there is support of the ideas within the proposal, but there is a lack of details that would be better piloted rather than fully implemented for Fall 2023. Comment made on needing additional details on EBG201, what CASES will look like for EB, and if the computing course is sufficient.

Comment made on framework being viewed as problematic due to lack of details and resource issues.

Current capacity of HASS200 is seventy-five; desire to create signature experience with smaller class size. An enrollment of thirty would be ideal for a signature experience. Discussions occurred with HASS, EB, and EDS department head to provide teaching faculty for growing student body. Faculty with interdisciplinary experience sought for that can contribute to other departments to not monopolize resources. CASES to facilitate broader perspective that integrates HASS with STEM topics ([click here for background information on CASES](#)).

Suggestion made for resources and calculations to be in writing.

Capacity of institution would be 1,450 students with consideration of teaching space, laboratory space, and additional resources. Retention issue at Mines; students lost in sophomore year at the same rate as freshmen year.

Comment made on providing outline on what exactly will be voted on, what decision points will be actionable, and how the process will move forward with a succinct timeline.

#### **Council Business—**

##### **Undergraduate Council**

Brandon Dugan

Council will continue to discuss the resolution and proposal brought forward by the Core Curriculum committee.

##### **Graduate Council**

Tina Voelker

##### **Program Changes – For Senate Presentation**

###### **1.1 CHEMISTRY**

[CIM 9/14; GC 9/21]

**1 program change:** MPMSPHD-CH: MP, MS & PhD – Chemistry

*Added flexibility to the non-thesis masters program so that students can choose 3 of 4 core courses rather than needing all 4 core courses.*

Students must pass CHGN560 as well as three of the four core courses (CHGN502, 503, 505, 507). The change would not affect the credits required to obtain the degree.

##### **Research Council**

Sid Saleh

Council Bylaw changes have been drafted and circulated. The 2022-2023 academic year goals of the Council are to maintain the following committees:

- Small Research Equipment and Instrumentation (REI)
- Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion
- Excellence in Research Awards
- Research Instrumentation
- Graduate Stipends
- High-Performance Computing
- Research Mentoring
- Mines Research Incentive Program
- Mines Undergraduate Research Advisory Council representatives

Council dissolved the Definition, Roles, Promotion of non-tenure/tenure-track researchers committee. Committee had merged with ORA effort led by Johanna Eagan. Graduate Stipends charge expanded to include issues of retention and recruitment of graduate students and postdocs. Council meetings have moved to the first Wednesday of the month.

- **Question** if there are Council representatives from each department; Saleh noted there are representatives from every department and a few interdisciplinary programs alongside non-voting members.

#### **Adjourn**

Jeff King

Meeting adjourned: 3:50 pm.

Next meeting: October 11, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Guggenheim Boardroom and Zoom. Please send all agenda items to [mgreen1@mines.edu](mailto:mgreen1@mines.edu) 1 week prior.

#### **Undergraduate Council Approved Course Changes**

MATH307: Introduction to Scientific Computing – *Added “CSCI102 or CSCI200” to prerequisite list.*

MNGN321: Introduction to Rock Mechanics – *Added prerequisite CEEN311 to prerequisite list.*