

Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 October 19, 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)
A	Eric Anderson (HSE)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Jamal Rostami (MN)	P	Michael Heeley (EB)
P	Ebru Bozdag (GP)	P	Juan Lucena (EDS)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	A	Luis Zerpa (PE)
P	Kester Clarke (MME)	P	Uwe Greife (PH)	P	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)	A	Gabriel Walton (UCTE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s): Şebnem Düzgün (MN), Sid Saleh (EDS)

Welcome

Tina Voelker

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Tim Barbari

No updates from OGS.

Registrar’s Office

Paul Myskiw

Registration for Spring 2023 begins 11/14. The class schedule for Spring 2023 will be available for viewing 10/24.

Graduate Student Government

Liam Witteman

GSG preparing for a joint meeting with USG on fees for the next year; increase is proposed due to high inflation.

- **Question** if it is possible to know the percent increase in fees; Witteman noted the highest increase was for health services at 9.1%.

GSG undergoing discussion on a survey or feedback form for students with an advisor or participating in research. General idea to have surveys for professors; concern raised due to graduate students receiving unsatisfactory grades and being surprised by these grades. Process may improve communication between advisors and graduate students.

Items for Council Vote – from 9/8/22 and 9/21/22

1.1

MINING ENGINEERING

Jamal Rostami

[CIM 8/24, Provost 8/24]

6 new courses:

MNGN581A: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING I: INTRODUCTION

MNGN581B: FUNDAMENTALS OF TAILINGS ENGINEERING I: TSF

Proposal for Increasing Minimum Graduate Stipend

Tina Voelker

Voelker had met with Barbari following the 10/5 graduate stipends discussion. Note had been made that there may not be an issue with Equal Pay for Equal Work but rather federal contractors that regularly audit. Voelker, Barbari, and Eagan to discuss further.

- **Question** why the graduate stipend does not fall under Equal Pay for Equal Work; graduate students are not considered employees and are not subject to that Act. Councilor noted that there may be ambiguity across positions.

Voelker reported some departments paying 0.5 FTE stipend in Fall and Spring; RAs working during the Summer may receive 1.0 FTE. Related discussion on how TA money flows into the departments and increasing the institutional minimum stipend to keep up with cost of living increases.

Voelker presented suggestion from OGS on graduate stipend increases for the next three years with the cost of living argument; Voelker made note this is presented as a suggestion to find what is palatable for faculty with grants and various factors. Finance to begin discussion with AA regarding TAs; TA increase may be feasible, RA increase required further discussion.

Suggested increase would be \$3,000 a year. FY22 is currently \$26,000. FY23 is currently \$27,000. The previous stipend increase of 3% had been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its affect on the institution's financial standing.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) has continued to increase with rent in some Denver suburbs having increased as much as 25% as of March 2020. Councilor suggested increase of graduate stipends begin as early as Spring 2023 to account for inflation and overall CPI increase.

- **Question** on where the money for the increase would come from and if it would involve faculty asking for grant increases; an increase in TA money would come from AA and RA increases would come from grants.

There has been discussion in OGS on changing the graduate tuition pricing structure.

- **Question** on how department budgets could assist in this effort; suggestion made for flex spending in the short term for RA stipends, Councilor noted that departments with a large number of PhD students would be directly impacted by a graduate stipend increase.

Councilor noted that some fellowships and grants have been increasing for the 2022-2023 academic year and beyond.

2.1 **ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**

Michael Heeley

[CIM 10/4]

1 program deactivation: CR-ENTR: Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship

The program had not been offered and courses were not developed. The program was supposed to be online.

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

4.1 **Approval of Minutes** – October 5, 2022

Tina Voelker

4.2 **ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS**

Michael Heeley

[CIM 10/4]

2 program changes: CR-BUSANLY: Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics
CR-PRODMGMT: Graduate Certificate in Product Management

Modifying the certificate to requiring one core class and choose two from three elective classes. This will increase the ability of students to complete the certificate.

4.2.1 [CIM 10/17]

1 course deactivation: EBG573: ENTREPRENEURIAL FINANCE

This course has not been offered in over ten years and is not part of any of our degree programs anymore.