

Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 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)	P	Jamal Rostami (MN)	P	Michael Heeley (EB)
P	Ebru Bozdag (GP)	P	Juan Lucena (EDS)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Luis Zerpa (PE)
A	Kester Clarke (MME)	P	Uwe Greife (PH)	A	Danica Roth (GE)	P	Bo Wu (CS)
P	Jay Straker (HASS)	A	Dave Marr (CBE)	P	Liam Witteman (GSG)	P	Lori Tunstall (CEE)
P	Christine Morrison (CH)	A	Salman Mohaghegi (EE)	A	Gabriel Walton (UCTE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	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)
A	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)	P	Angela Dunn (Mines Online)	A	D. Scott Heath (RO)	P	Jen Gagne (Graduate Admissions)

Special Guest(s): Valerie Holt (AES)

Welcome

Tina Voelker

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Tim Barbari

No updates from the Office of Graduate Studies.

Registrar’s Office

Paul Myskiw

No updates from the Registrar’s Office.

Graduate Student Government

Liam Witteman

Student Quality of Life Survey

Survey was sent to graduate students in Spring 2021. 208 responses received in April 2021; twenty-nine master’s non-thesis students, twenty-five thesis master’s students, and 154 PhD students. Highlighted topics included finances, health care coverage, advisor and department relations, access to technology and information, work/life balance, and a few general comments. Several topics tied back to finances.

Finances

The minimum gross stipend is \$27,000 a year. Students noted the main costs were related to housing; survey looked at average across degrees. Mines Park falls in-line with average housing market in Golden and stipends do not provide cost competitiveness. Several students choose roommates or moving away from Golden, adding commute and parking costs. Survey reflected fifty percent of stipend went to housing. Suggestion made for Mines’ shuttle service to assist both undergraduate and graduate student populations and commuting/parking.

- **Question** if students were asked for monthly rent alone or with utilities; survey had asked for monthly rent only.

Survey noted financial stress has led students questioning the value of their Mines’ graduate degree if industry is paying more.

Non-Compliance with HLC Accepted Practices

Tim Barbari

Graduate Programs and Combined Programs

Barbari presented HLC Assumed Practices document. Mines up for its ten-year HLC accreditation audit in Spring 2023. HLC is one of six regional accreditors for the region; accreditation allows for federal funding and grants. Barbari noted accreditation would not be pulled, but if issues arise a suggestion would be made by HLC with a response expected from the university to provide evidence that Mines is meeting HLC criteria.

HLC report written by hired writers. Variation of credits needs to be justified and explained within the report. Barbari noted double-counting language can be explained and justified within a report. 4+1 double-counting language would need to shift which would impact advising students.

HLC would view the 2022-2023 Catalog; any changes should reflect in the 2023-2024 Catalog. Policy language has not been finalized, Barbari sought input from Council prior to moving forward with further policy changes.

Comment raised on departments most effected with multiple combined degree programs that feed into master's programs; suggestion made to find an allowable list of what can be double-counted.

Myskiw noted HLC accreditation allows the institution to receive and participate in federal funding such as federal student aid and grants; fines could be associated if an institution is out of compliance, if accreditation is lost some degrees may be revoked.

Continuing Business – from 10/19/22

Proposal for Increasing Minimum Graduate Stipend

Tim Barbari

Tabled for 11/16.

2.2

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

[CIM 10/4; Provost 10/4]

1 new course:

NUGN570: MATHEMATICAL METHODS IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING

Andrew Osborne

Adjourn

Tina Voelker

Meeting adjourned: 5:09 pm.

Next meeting: November 16, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom. Please send all agenda items to Mara Green

(mgreen1@mines.edu) 1 week in advance.

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.

3.1

Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2022

Tina Voelker