

Colorado School of Mines – UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 April 12, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 19 total (10 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Joseph Horan (chair)	P	Andrew Pederson (EB)	P	Mike Nicholas (AMS)	A	Chuck Stone (PH)
P	Michael Barankin (CBE)	P	Cortney Holles (HASS)	P	Corinne Packard (MME)	P	Nicole Smith (MN)
P	Dylan Domaille (CH)	P	Ge Jin (GP)	P	Rob Thompson (CS)	P	Dave Benson (GE)
P	Linda Battalora (PE)	P	Hongyan Liu (CEE)	P	Oyvind Nilsen (ME)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
P	Chelsea Salinas (EDS)	P	Brianna Buljung (LB)	P	Hisham Sager (EE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

A	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)	A	Dixie Cirillo (PA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	A	Paul Myskiw (RO)
A	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny Center)	A	Kendra Stansbury (RO)
P	Katie Ludwin (CASA)	P	Danielle Boileau (CASA)	A	Cheryl Medford (GE)	P	D. Scott Heath (RO)
A	Rachel McDonald (PE)	A	Colin Terry (SL)				

Special Guest(s): Megan Abbey (Associate Director; International Students and Scholars Services); President Paul Johnson; Provost Rick Holz, Becky Lafrancois (EB)

Welcome

Joe Horan

Horan welcomed Councilors and distinguished guests to the meeting. Horan noted the proposal presented by Houser had been presented at Faculty Senate on 4/11.

Proposal to replace EBG201 with EBG321 in the Core

Scott Houser

Houser prefaced that he had served as chair on the Council core curriculum subcommittee and had been involved in the revision process for several years. The MINES@150 goal of finding opportunities for students to gain business acumen as part of their undergraduate studies had brought about discussions of possible options. Houser noted the option of expanding the Culture and Society (CAS) electives with electives from Economics and Business was suitable. There had not been an element of business education in the core curriculum. EBG321: Engineering Economics provides content and tools; the course would allow students to look at business problems and contribute to their business acumen.

Houser reported the course was designed to teach in large sections and could be scaled up quickly with curriculum in place.

Houser reported alumni had noted EBG321 as important, valuable, and/or useful in their post-graduate endeavors. Houser hoped to address concerns of students' unable to progress without business acumen by replacing EBG201 with EBG321 within the core for 2023-2024.

Houser noted the prerequisite of EBG321, EBG201, would be removed and replaced with "junior status or sixty credits".

President Johnson was supportive of the proposal and noted the change came from the strategic plan

and feedback from alumni and employers. President Johnson had had discussions on what students need and what could be done better; feedback signaled graduates needing more business acumen. Without the business piece, students may not be able to compete or be as successful without it.

- **Question** on how the change would be phased into the core with piloting Futures; Dave reported the 2023-2024 Catalog reflects HASS100, HASS200, and EBG201 as required courses. EBG201 would be replaced with EBG321. Following successful pilot and scaling of the Futures course, HASS100 and EBG321 would remain in the core. HASS200 and Futures place within the core would need to be established. Twelve credits of CAS electives would then decrease to nine.
- **Question** on why the rollout would begin as early as fall and how the change would be communicated to students, given several had registered for classes; Dave reported an “if, then” plan would be developed similarly to CSCI101/102 and CSI128 within the core. The goal would be to avoid adverse impacts on students; EB would be consulted for a full plan.

Houser reported seats for EBG321 had been doubled for Fall 2023 with two sections overlapping with EBG201.

- **Question** on the course placement within the curriculum and if the same cohort of EBG201 would be placed in EBG321; Holz had reviewed program flowcharts and reported a majority had EBG201 within junior or senior year. DH had been contacted if EBG201 was within freshmen year and a change would not impact the flowchart.
- **Question** on the rationale of proposing the course change and how it would diversify students’ options if not pursuing engineering; Houser noted the course would provide a foundation for business acumen and would be beneficial to all students. Holz noted engineers that went to become professors would still benefit from the course, Holz reported faculty that do not have business background struggle with grant budgets and monitoring.

Councilor noted several students had taken micro/macroeconomics at Red Rocks or have transfer credits that count toward EBG201, Councilor questioned if the same substitutions could be used for EBG321; Houser reported micro/macroeconomics would not make sense as substitutions for EBG321 and would remain substitutions for EBG201. Houser noted the closest course that could substitute would be a business finance course on capital budgeting.

- **Question** if the credits transferred to EBG201 would be counted toward a different requirement; the proposal recommended EBG201 be added to the CAS electives.

Councilor recommended an “or” option between EBG201 and EBG321.

Councilors questioned the push to make the change in Fall 2023.

Councilor noted the change may limit choices, the ability to take different minors, or pursuing certificates.

The Registrar’s Office reported confidence in being able to make the change on the registration end. Work had been done to ensure enough seats were available to incoming freshmen. Holz noted several students in Fall 2022 had had twelve credits or less, the institution would like to be proactive in offering courses that assist students in moving forward in their degree.

- **Question** on why sixty credits or junior status as a prerequisite for EBG321 is needed for students to succeed in the course; Pederson, who teaches the course, reported students struggling with the reasoning of the course had not interacted with business yet. Students that had progressed through internships, interviews, and interactions with industry understood the context of the course. Houser noted the issue had arisen in EBG201 where students without decision-making experience did not resonate with the material, yet.

Houser noted there had been consideration on development of a new course that could be an introduction to business or economics, but the course would be an overload for three credits; Houser noted the concept could be revisited.

Councilor noted that the need for business experience as a new engineer was limited, responsibilities increased with experience in the field. Councilor questioned if the EBG321 course was the optimal course.

Council discussed the process for reviewing the proposal and voting; Council agreed to meet 4/19 for further discussion and feedback from departments. Horan noted the 4/26 meeting would occur at the same time as the Faculty Awards Ceremony, a meeting would be called on 4/26 if fully necessary.

The Catalog publication date had been pushed to 6/1. The proposal was presented at Faculty Senate 4/11 and more discussions could occur over April and May.

Recommendation made that, should Council approve the proposal, the memorandum of changes would be applied to programs to avoid individual program entries in the Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) system. A similar process was done for the Student Life core changes.

- **Question** on why there was a push to complete the change for Fall 2023; President Johnson reported the plan to have business education had been developed in the strategic plan six years ago.

Approval of Minutes – March 29, 2023

Joe Horan

MOTION: To vote to approve the March 29, 2023 minutes by Barankin, seconded by Nilsen. Seventeen (17) for, zero against, one (1) abstention. Motion passed.

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Undergraduate Studies

Vibhuti Dave

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Course

A memo had been sent to Councilors for review. Dave asked for feedback from Councilor departments on options presented in the memorandum.

Distributed Science Credits

Dave provided Councilors with a memorandum with two options for distributed science (DSCI) credits. The first option would involve the development of a blanket institutional policy where if students have completed DSCI courses and the courses are no longer program requirements, the courses would count toward free electives. Dave noted the pros of this option would be consistent advising, limited course substitutions, and simpler administrative work for the Registrar's Office. Dave noted the con of the option would be if students have fulfilled their free electives, the credits would not count.

The second option would be providing degree programs with ownership of the DSCI credits. Dave suggested free electives or technical electives with students completing core requirements as outlined within the Catalog. The option would be the most flexible for students, but departments would need to provide exact information to the Registrar on how the credits are counted in Degree Works.

Dave asked Councilors to provide the document to departments for feedback on which options are best.

Registrar's Office

D. Scott Heath

No updates.

Adjourn

Joe Horan

Meeting adjourned: 5:02 pm.

Next meeting: April 19, 4:00-5:00 pm via Zoom. Please send agenda items to Mara Green (mgreen1@mines.edu) one week prior.