

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 April 25, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Guggenheim Boardroom and Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 14 total (8 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Jeff King (Chair)	A	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)	P	Linda Figueroa (CEE/MN)	P	Joseph Horan (HASS)
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)	A	Brandon Dugan (GP)* Sabbatical Spring 2023	P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)
P	Bettina Voelker (CH)	A	Lawrence Wiencke (PH)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)
P	Sid Saleh (EB)	P	Deb Carney (AMS)				

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Andrew Herring (AA)	P	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)
P	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)	A	Liam Witteman (GSG)	P	Mara Green (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)
P	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Jen Gagne (Graduate Admissions)	P	Terri Hogue (Dean)
A	John Berger (Dean)	A	Todd Ruskell (PH)	A	Dinesh Mehta (Trustee)	P	Jon Johnson (Mines Online)

Special Guest(s): Scott Houser (EB), Carolyn Freedman (OGS), Megan Sanders (Trefny)

Welcome

Jeff King

King encouraged faculty and Senators to attend the Faculty Awards Ceremony and recognize colleagues receiving awards.

King encouraged faculty to participate and volunteer at Moonlight Breakfast on Review Day from 8-9:30 pm in Mines Market on 5/4.

King would be attending the 5/9 meeting remotely due to a conference.

The Revised Opening Week Activities Committee met; the taskforce would review opening week for 2024-2025 so that more students can participate. King encouraged faculty to participate and see how opening week affects departments. King and Kohl on the taskforce and may report as the taskforce develops.

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy taskforce met and is accepting recommendations on AI use on campus.

Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2023 and Approval of Agenda

Jeff King

MOTION: To vote to approve the April 11, 2023 minutes by Voelker, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: To vote to approve April 25, 2023 agenda by Horan, seconded by Figueroa. Motion passed unanimously.

Academic Affairs Announcements

Rick Holz

Provost Holz noted an email was distributed the morning of 4/25 on the passing of Moises A. Carron, a link provided to share a sympathy message with the family in the memorial page guestbook was provided. Professor Carreon would be honored during the 4/26 Faculty Awards Ceremony.

The Faculty Awards Ceremony would announce the 2024 University Distinguished Professors and the first group of University Distinguished Teaching Professors. Faculty promoted and receiving promotion and tenure would be recognized, as well. The event would be held in the Student Center Grand Ballrooms with food and drink at 4pm.

Provost Holz reported review and finals week were fast approaching and asked faculty to review the policies and procedures in the Procedures Manual ([click here for the Procedures Manual](#)). Provost Holz reminded faculty that exams should not be distributed during review week, a reminder would be sent out on procedures.

- **Question** on makeup exams during review week; Myskiw confirmed the policy refers to class exams. Student makeup exams are mutually agreed dates and times between student and faculty. Myskiw reiterated no class exams during review week provides students an opportunity to review and ask questions prior to finals.

Provost Holz recommended faculty walkthrough the capstone displays. The capstone design senior showcase would occur 4/27 from 9:30-11am in Lockridge Arena. Faculty encouraged to view design projects and ask questions.

Registrar's Office Announcements

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw noted academic activities like final exams have priority for booking rooms; Myskiw would provide his cellphone number for evening hours in the event of conflicts. Myskiw reported implementation had begun for EMS to host classroom scheduling; a single reservation system would be used for the entire campus.

Committee Reports

Core Curriculum

Joe Horan

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee

Proposal to Replace EBG201 with EBG321

Horan reported the proposal to replace EBG201 with EBG321 for Fall 2023 and within the core had been discussed and presented to Undergraduate Council on 4/12 and 4/19; Council would not meet on 4/26 due to conflict with the Faculty Awards Ceremony. Myskiw confirmed the publication of the Catalog had been postponed to 6/1; a recommendation was made for both parties to reach a decision by mid-May.

- **Question** on what exactly is being voted on by Council and Faculty Senate; Horan confirmed only the proposal to replace EBG201 with EBG321 would be voted on. Changes to the core language and program listings in the Catalog would be updated should the proposal be approved.

Council had questioned rooming and faculty availability and course sequencing; Horan could distribute the draft minutes to Senators for additional details, if requested. Council had received confirmation that AA pre-approved faculty availability and Myskiw confirmed room availability. Horan reported Council

concern regarding the junior status restriction on EBG321 and replacing a sophomore-level course with a junior-level course. Senate recommended a final review of the Catalog language.

- **Question** on Futures covering business and if this were no longer the case; Horan clarified that business was not intended for the Futures course and Futures would cover economics. The committee had considered adding more business courses to the list of Culture and Society (CAS) electives; the updated electives list would not have been implemented immediately and required successful piloting of Futures.

The proposal presented by Economics and Business (EB) department head, Scott Houser, had requested EBG201 be added to the list of CAS electives while HASS100 and EBG321 would remain requirements in the core. Futures was meant as a social science course, not a business course.

Senator noted that the resolution of November 2022 ([click here to view](#)) had not outlined a required business course; Senators voiced concern for the proposal appearing after years of core curriculum development. There was a suggestion made to see more quantitative information on the needs for the course outside of alumni and company representative anecdotes. Recommendation made to clarify the proposal language to exclude mention of online or hybrid pedagogy.

Senate asked that the Catalog language with EBG321 be provided by the 5/9 meeting.

- **Question** on the timeline of the proposal and why there was a rush; Provost Holz clarified the need for business acumen had been described in the MINES@150 strategic plan designed six years ago, business acumen had been discussed at several committees and the recent core revision had not fulfilled that need. EBG321 would be a currently offered course, highly thought of by alumni and students, and would not require a pilot.

Senator voiced concern with retroactive additions to the core revision approved by Council and Faculty Senate in March 2023.

- **Question** on faculty voice within the EB proposal; Provost Holz reported there had been input from faculty that business is important, and the Deans had spoken with department heads on the changes. Provost Holz reported most department heads were supportive and had been asked to discuss the proposal with their departments. Provost Holz noted the importance of business acumen as students advance through their careers.

Horan confirmed the core curriculum committee had conducted Town Halls, anonymous surveys, and discussions within Undergraduate Council and Faculty Senate. Senator noted there had not been enough time to review the proposal and garner feedback from faculty.

Horan noted program changes should be considered; each program would need to process the change, accordingly, should the proposal to replace EBG201 with EBG321 pass.

Faculty Contracts

Jeff King

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee

King would send the committee an additional request to reject and provide feedback to Provost Holz; Provost Holz noted minor changes had been recommended by AA and requested changes from the committee had been accommodated. King reported the committee did not disagree with the appeal

language but had recommendations on the policies and procedures. Provost Holz informed Senate contracts would be submitted soon.

- **Question** on salary adjustments; Provost Holz stated the adjustments may occur at the same time as the merit increases. The analysis and updates on salaries had not been seen by Provost Holz as of 4/25; King recommended a report from Human Resources (HR) to Faculty Senate on the compensation strategy.

Instruction Effectiveness Implementation

Deb Carney

Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee

Carney provided a report on the Peer Observation Proposal ([click here to view the website](#)). The goal of the proposal was establishing formative feedback with a focus on growth and development in teaching where faculty may learn from one another. The taskforce sought a sustainable proposal that would require around six hours per faculty member every three years, supported by Peer Observation Fellows (POF), and structured alongside FDRs and Promotion and Tenure (P&T). Carney reiterated the observation would not be required on the FDRs or P&T. Participation would be a yes-no question with the option to provide notes, reports, and reflections.

Carney reported the taskforce had shared the proposal at faculty meetings and held open forums on campus in Spring 2023. The taskforce would hold off on recruiting POFs due to funding. Carney addressed Senate for approval of the final proposal and a three-year pilot. The taskforce would develop training and materials over Summer 2023 and expect recruitment of POFs in Fall 2023. The taskforce expects to conduct its first round of department training and observations in Spring 2024. The taskforce would collect feedback, iterate on the process, and share results throughout the three-year pilot.

The budget for the pilot would be funded from 2023 to 2024 through the Trefny Center.

Carney shared campus feedback with Senate. Carney reported the general reaction to the proposal was positive, but it was needed to reiterate that it was for peer observation and not evaluation.

- **Question** on what happens after three years; unless action is taken the pilot would end and the observations would not continue. Carney noted the taskforce would need to assess ownership, continuing processes, and long-term assessment of evaluation effectiveness on improving teaching.

Senator noted the need for a mechanism to assess if teaching effectiveness was improved or not.

MOTION: For Faculty Senate to request the Taskforce on Instruction Effectiveness Implementation implement the three-year pilot for peer observation by Carney, seconded by Horan. Motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT: To approve the first year of the pilot with the provision that there is a report provided to Faculty Senate prior to continuation of the second and third year of piloting by Eberhart, seconded by Voelker. Motion amendment passed unanimously.

Council Reports

Undergraduate Council

No report from Undergraduate Council.

Graduate Council

Appendix A – Graduate Curriculum Item for Senate Presentation

Voelker presented on the addition of an online non-thesis master's program in data science. Voelker explained that there was a misunderstanding on presenting modality additions to Senate and Graduate Council. Marketing of the online program began without formally undergoing the process of notifying the governing bodies. Myskiw reported making the Banner codes so that interested students were able to apply.

Freedman provided background information on the structure and noted the program had been marketed to students but had not undergone the formal process with Graduate Council and Faculty Senate. The codes had not been created, Myskiw pushed the Banner codes through for students to apply.

The current program is thirty credits with two modules: nine credits with mathematics courses and nine credits with computer science-related courses. The mathematics courses are all online with one to be developed over the summer. All computer science-related courses are online. Students have a domain-specific section where three courses, at three credits, can be selected. Freedman noted there are grouped, pre-approved options for residential students but only one group of courses is available in an online modality. Students could identify another set of three courses that work with their goals. The mini module contains three one-credit courses for professional development. The courses in the mini-module are not currently available in an online modality.

Spiegel notified Senate that the program had proposed a modality change and the content of the program would not change.

Senate noted the addition of an online modality for the non-thesis master's in mechanical engineering came to both Graduate Council and Faculty Senate. Recommendation was made for guidance on modality changes and an outlined process; suggestion made to keep the process uniform as membership and leadership changes within the governing bodies.

Discussion continued on shared governance and the bodies' ability to provide recommendations on processes and curriculum.

Senator noted language of the modality did not exist in the Catalog and had not been submitted to the Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) system to notify Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and other stakeholders of the change.

- **Question** if the modality would be recorded on student transcripts; Barbari reported the student transcript does not reflect the modality. Herring reported the content should be the same regardless of modality. Barbari noted that programs that look different from a non-thesis master's program would come with a different name, such as a professional master's degree.

Research Council

No reports from Research Council.

Briefings, Informational Items, and Updates

Graduate Stipend Increase

Tim Barbari

The minimum or base graduate stipend was increased to \$32,000 beginning Fall 2023 to remain competitive and uniform across campus.

Barbari noted the implementation of Workday has pushed stakeholders to rethink graduate student contracts as two, four and a half month contracts for fall and spring with a three-month summer contract; Barbari reported this would be in line with how faculty contracts are structured alongside other institutions.

The Office of Budget and Financial Planning working with departments to receive exact information on Teaching Assistants (TAs); the budget would be modeled with 0.5 FTE or a twenty-hour week and would be used for budget modeling to assure departments have sufficient funds for a \$12,000 TA for fall and spring.

Barbari reported the largest gap exists with Research Assistants (RAs) on existing grants; Barbari noted an institutional change would not be possible. Some departments were at \$32,000 and others were at the previous \$27,000 minimum. Portfolio deans were asked to go department to department, PI to PI, requesting information from faculty under existing grants. Barbari noted some faculty have research development (RD) accounts that are large enough to cover while others do not. The deans and departments would take an all-funds budgeting approach to fill gaps.

Barbari asked faculty bring budgeting discussions to the department head and portfolio deans.

- **Question** if the four-and-a-half-month contract takes effect in Fall 2023; Barbari confirmed, a transition plan would be investigated.

The stipend increase would be discussed in both Graduate and Research Council.

Confirmations and Appointments

Jeff King

Senate Election Update

King reported Senate would be in the process of seeking five new Senators to begin in Fall 2023; solicitation for letters of intent were sent 4/18. As of 4/25, two letters were received. The deadline for letters of intent had been extended to 4/28, end of business day. King encouraged colleagues to participate, especially in underrepresented departments.

Senate Business

Jeff King

Graduation List

The Spring 2023 Undergraduate and Graduate graduation lists were presented to Faculty Senate for vote prior to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Provost Holz noted August graduates walk in the spring ceremony but complete field sessions over the summer, these names are approved in spring.

MOTION: To vote to approve both the Undergraduate and Graduate graduation lists by Horan, seconded by Ermila. Motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Handbook Update

[To review the Faculty Handbook revisions, please click here.](#)

King requested Senators review the Faculty Handbook revisions; King scheduled a business meeting for 5/2 to discuss the revisions and potential for Senate vote. A thirty-day review period was provided with a portal to submit comments.

King clarified the revisions did not require Senate approval, but the body has the right to object to the revisions and provide language on why (for information on the process, please review [sections 3.1](#) and [3.4](#) of the Faculty Handbook).

Committee Business

Jeff King

Formation of Core Curriculum Assessment Committee

Horan introduced a draft of the charge of the Core Curriculum Assessment committee on 4/11; comments were not received on the draft, Horan sought feedback on the type of committee and if the language should be reworked. A strong recommendation was made toward the formation of a standing committee. The main charge of the committee would be assessment of what was done in the core; Senator noted stronger language should be included on what is being assessed and how and when it would be done.

Undergraduate Council

Joe Horan

No Undergraduate Council business presented.

Graduate Council

Tina Voelker

Appendix B – Graduate Curriculum Item for Senate Vote

2.1 New Program Proposal of the Tailings Engineering Graduate Certificate Program

Voelker reported the program had passed Graduate Council with minimal discussion.

MOTION: To vote to approve the new program CRTG-TAIL: Tailings Engineering Graduate Certificate by Voelker, seconded by Horan. Seven (7) yes, zero against, one (1) abstention.

Research Council

Sid Saleh

No Research Council business presented.

Adjourn

Jeff King

Meeting adjourned: 3:59 pm.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Guggenheim Boardroom and Zoom. Please send agenda items to Mara Green (mgreen1@mines.edu) 1 week prior.

Appendix A **Graduate Curriculum Item for Senate Presentation**

1.1

APPLIED MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

[CIM TBD]

1 program change: MS-DSCI-NT: Non-Thesis Masters in Data Science
Addition of online non-thesis Masters degree.

Appendix B

Graduate Curriculum Item for Senate Vote from 4/11/23

2.1

MINING ENGINEERING

[CIM 4/4; Provost 4/4; GC 4/19]

1 new program proposal: CRTG-TAIL: Tailings Engineering Graduate Certificate Program
Tailings Center was created in 2020 to perform research and educate students, people in mining industry, and regulators in the US and foreign countries as well. The center has provided many short courses to various audiences, and it is time to establish a graduate certificate program at Mines.

Tailings and the proper management of them are essential and mining industry has paid much attention these days. However, the effort from each company cannot be comprehensive or educational but limited to its immediate needs. Tailings engineering graduate certificate program at Mines will provide a semi-comprehensive curriculum that can be beneficial to engineers and other professionals who are involved in mining business. It is a great opportunity to create a graduate certificate program in Tailings Engineering at Mines that benefits our students and recruits more future students. It also fulfills the Mission and Vision of the Colorado School of Mines, and that supports the Mines @150 goals.