

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 August 22, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 15 total (8 needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Brandon Dugan (Chair)	P	Vaughan Griffiths (CEE)	P	Jamal Rostami (CH)		
P	Deb Carney (AMS)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)		
P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Sid Saleh (EDS)		
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)	P	Shubham Vyas (CH)				

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

A	Dinesh Mehta (Trustee)	P	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)
A	Sam Spiegel (Online)	P	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	GSG Representative (GSG)	P	Nichole Bigley (AA)
P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)
A	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Sharfi Rahman (CS)	P	Andy Herring (AA)		
P	Lauren Guido (USG)	P	Jon Johnson (Online)	P	Kendra Stansbury (RO)		

Welcome (2:03PM)

Brandon Dugan

Academic Affairs Announcements

Rick Holz

Construction Engineering Program

Holz explained that this fall we officially launched the construction engineering program. This program was approved last year and is getting underway without incoming class.

Incoming Class

Holz reported 1,466 new freshmen as of the morning of August 22, 2023, which is down from last year at census. Of the total number of incoming students, a total of 1,416 were in-state and out-of-state students, 50 were international students, 138 transfer students giving us a total of 1,604 total new students this year.

The total number of women in the incoming class were 34% as well as 34% students of color (which is a 9% increase).

Congratulations to the Admissions Team!

Recruitment and Admissions

Because of the Supreme Court ruling this summer on affirmative action, the Admissions team has been re-tooling how we recruit and what we can and cannot do to ensure our class is diverse. It is expected to see a

hit next year in our diversity numbers but we are doing everything we can to mitigate that within the confines of the new laws.

Mines-A-Palooza and new hires

Mines-A-Palooza was a great success where over 500 people attended. We welcomed 42 new professors, with a mix of tenured (T) and tenure-track (TT), professors of practice and teaching faculty prior to the Mines-a-Palooza.

We currently have 21 searches ramping up for T/TT and teaching faculty plus the possibility of up to 4 department head (DH) searches. Currently the Mining DH search is ongoing; the 3 additional DH searches should start up soon.

- **Question** on other DH searches: There is one external AMS DH search, one external CBE DH search, and one external or internal in CEE DH search (still deciding).
- **Question** on how Rick's first week has been: Good! Busy, getting to know our freshman and learning their stories. Really impressive and tremendous group of men and women

Registrar's Office Announcements

Paul Myskiw

Myskiw welcomes everyone back. We were able to register all the new freshman at 14 credits or those, by design, that were at 12 credits. We are still tracking down research grades from the summer. Please have faculty enter grades if they have not yet done so and that will help with closing out the summer.

Banner will need to migrate. We are currently in the 4th week of a 9-month project to move the database to the cloud. The look and feel will be similar but much of the Registrar office will be busy doing this and may take attention away from doing other things this year.

A search for a successor for Mara is underway and hopefully, one will be found soon.

- **Question** if there were any unusual issues, that were apparent at this time, from the changes that we made late last year: We were fortunate to have hired a Mines Alum who took on registration and did a fantastic job. We were worried about running into potential issues, but it seemed to sort itself out ok. There were certainly some issues with congestion, especially with Chemistry and other departments adding sections or seats as needed. Ultimately, we seem to have had a pretty good start so far.

Faculty Senate 2023-2024

Brandon Dugan

Dugan would like to discuss the thought process and ideas for Senate this year which will be discussed more in depth at the next meeting. The Senate is a working body for shared governance, so please bring all the topics and ideas that you have to me, and we can figure out how to work them into the agenda. We want to make sure we're open and transparent, and we share as much information as we can.

Faculty Senate Opening

There is currently one opening for faculty senate this year which will be opened campus wide.

Encourage your colleagues to apply and we will be advertising for, and Dugan will soon distribute it campus wide. But encourage your colleagues to apply, if they want to contribute and be part of Senate, and help to steer the institution with the guidance from our colleagues, our peers, the administrative staff, the administrators, and how we can make this a better place for everybody.

Councils and Committees

A list of open committees and requirements will be forthcoming. The Senate secretary will send out a call for applicants and we will discuss as soon as those come in.

MOTION: To appoint Ventzi Karaivanov for Undergraduate Council Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Ombuds office

Discussions about creating an Ombuds office across campus for all faculty, staff and students were in the works for the last couple years. Faculty Senate finally endorsed an Ombuds position to see how it works, how it functions and to see how it grows and the needs of the campus. The old slide presentation and meeting minutes are available upon request. An internal position for a faculty ombuds will be posted in Workday. The search committee is almost formed (waiting on 1 additional confirmation). Anyone interested in the position is encouraged to apply. The details are being worked out with HR and AA to follow all the rules and regulations. We are hoping to move this quickly and review of the applicants will start early October and the final selection will hopefully be by the end of Fall for a start date in the Spring semester.

- **Question** on where the presentation and meeting minutes are located: Dugan will send out the position description and slides from the old canvas page, compensation etc. to share more about the position.

Core Curriculum

The Senate continues to play a vital role albeit less vigorous than last year and we are looking for little details (course sequencing, prerequisites etc.) from departments. Vibhuti Dave and Megan Sanders are developing the assessment for the core curriculum. Excited that Dave and Sanders will lead and our role, as Senators, is to listen to them, communicate and to provide information that can inform recommendations several years down the road.

R1 Institution

We were upgraded two years ago to an R1 Institution. What do we do with this big opportunity and where can we grow best? This is a machine that needs to continue to move forward. Dugan would like the Senate to discuss how we continue to improve and grow.

Mines@150

Mines@150 is not a singular event or one singular year. This is an opportunity to set the framework as to where we go as an institution. We should all engage in the activities throughout

the year and view them as a celebration for the accomplishments in the last 150 years. We would also like to raise the discussion of what do we want for the next 150 years. So [we] should engage in the bigger/broader discussion about where we can go and how do we get there.

Undergraduate Council

Vibhuti Dave

Welcome back everyone!

Core Curriculum assessment will be a high priority this year. Like Dugan mentioned we want to make sure that the curriculum needs to fulfill competency that were designed and approved as one of the first steps in the process.

Back in May Trefny and Dave got together and requested faculty think about the core as a whole and not siloed courses. The group spent time looking at learning objectives, departmental and cross-course dialogue, competencies and familiarizing ourselves with them. Trefny has organized informal meetups to continue the conversation for the rest of the semester and possibly the year to continue the conversation with faculty around cross-cutting topics in the core. Sanders and Dave will meet with Dugan next week to better articulate expectations and deliverables from faculty, who are in the classroom with regards to assessment. Sander, Dave, and Dugan will discuss how to engage with the senate and ensure going through the correct process for both CASA and CSM101.

TRAIL

TRAIL is the Transformative Record of Applied Integrated Learning. This has been another high priority for the upcoming academic year. The experimental major menus have been launched and they were deployed to our incoming undergrads. They will also be a topic of conversation for CSM101.

CASA Advisors will be using them as an advising tool, and we would like to encourage faculty to use them as well to make students aware of what kinds of experiences best complement the degree or major that they are pursuing. Check out some of the experimental major maps or main menus that are on the website: mines.edu/trail. Dave recommends checking out AMS or CBE as they have some good ones. Still waiting on some degree programs that need to be uploaded or just hearing back from the program.

The second part of the implementation part of TRAIL is the comprehensive learner record. Tentative plan is to brand it as the Ordigger Record of Experience (ORE). This will not be an academic transcript but more of a record of the types of things that students engage in and what skills they developed with that engagement. Have purchased the software to help publish some of these events that happen on campus so that we can keep track of event attendance and we can do data collection etc. This software will be implemented soon and then my office will reach out to departments faculty and staff so that we can start training for folks to use the software and socialize these events. Again, the point is to just have some way of tracking this data and measuring what type of skills students are learning and at what level. So that will be happening over the next year.

ABET

ABET is ramping up and people will be spending a lot of time writing self-study reports. If you know of those in your departments that are working on this, make sure to thank them as a lot of work and time is put into this. ABET committee will be meeting monthly through fall and then 2x per week in spring so that the self-study reports are ready to go July 2024 and the ABET visitors will be here October 2024.

- **Question:** Can you please highlight what is the TRAIL project? This has been an ongoing conversation since 2021 and is best explained in two parts: 1. This is a one-stop shop for students to determine what experiences are available on campus, what experiences are important and what learning experience outside of the classroom – and navigating these experiences. And 2: What skills were developed – create an official record of everything student participated in to connect the dots and better tell their story to potential employers.
- **Question:** Are we building this into recruiting as well? This year we only sent to the incoming students. Next year we will use this as a recruiting tool to show what a student at Mines will be like and help to carve out their path.
- **Question:** Many of the pages on the website are empty? Yes, waiting on departments to confirm to go live; seems 5 are ready and there are 8 missing. Susan Gieg has been helpful in getting everything approved to go live.

Generative AI – Faculty Input

Brandon Dugan for Estelle Smith

Estelle Smith was not able to attend. Dugan presented slides and overview.

This is something that is new and rapidly evolving. As an institution, some of the things that happened over the summer and last year are, how do we work with this for the students benefit and how to train students to work with it and become successful utilizing Gen AI in the classroom. While there may be negative or dangerous things there can also be strengths too. The recommended syllabus template has ideas on how to use Gen AI and encourages each instructor to develop their own ideas. We should stay with and keep up with technology.

Smith is proposing to do a faculty survey to complement the recent student survey. So, her contact information is there. Back in May they surveyed all the graduate and undergraduate students in all the departments about how they use Gen AI and their perspective on it and their education. Thinking further down the road about how this could impact their careers. They received 900 responses although May is a busy time for students.

She has results that she can show you on the survey. Most students have tried Gen AI and tend to view it as beneficial for their field and areas of study and are primarily using it for different types of interactions, from writing improvement, coding assistance, emphasizing or reinforcing learning from a course. They were less likely to use it as a cheating tool, less likely to type in the homework question to get an answer and more likely to use it as an assistant. Using data across all departments and looking at this broad wonderful group of STEM students we have and how Gen AI is affecting their learning and how they can be used to enhance and improve the learning process.

Smith would like to hear from faculty on getting a survey to compliment the student survey to help support Mines and be a leader among our peers. This will be how to best support our students through data driven decision making. Questions such as: How do we integrate what the students want from Gen AI? What do the faculty know or want from Gen AI? And how can we make that work together to create the best opportunities. This is just feedback, right now. Ideally, we would release the survey in mid-September.

The survey will start with some general consent and then how frequently you have used Gen AI and Gen AI based tools and how you are using them. Then the survey will go into more specifics, like if you have used these tools in the classroom and in your research. How have you used them, why did you use them and

what was your experience. Then there is a slider scale of whether you think these are beneficial to your field of study. There are some additional questions, challenges and opportunities.

Clarification that there probably will be a committee around Gen AI in the future but right now the group is only set up for the current guidelines we have. There will be some Gen AI trainings in September and you are all encouraged to share that information.

- **Question:** Would a faculty forum be more beneficial? A sandbox will be offered in September through Trefny where we are encouraging the faculty to come and play with the tools and become familiar with them.
- **Question:** Can you record the sessions and make them available for those who cannot attend? That will be looked into.

We are currently at the very low level of data gathering and just figuring out how other tools could be beneficial but first we need to see how many people are aware of the tools themselves and how they can be used.

- **Question:** What is the role of faculty senate in this? Our role is multi-fold as this could lead to policy, recommendations or changes that could go through Senate. Also, we represent the entire faculty so this is an opportunity for feedback and we have the ability to talk and encourage our colleagues about what is happening.

Smith is open for feedback from anybody through the google doc that is in the PowerPoint slides or send it to Dugan within the next week or so in order that it be aggregated and names are kept private.

- **Question:** Are we the gate keepers for this survey? Not really the gate-keepers but we could ask that it is not sent out or to delay distribution until further discussion is had.

Graduate Council

Tim Barbari

New Programs

Barbari discussed upcoming changes this year and what is on the agenda for Grad Council. The big one is the combined programs (4+1) and how it is more in line/compliant with HLC guidelines regarding accelerated 4 + 1 programs where we substitute courses and then double count for grad classes. Some current students are grandfathered in so it will take 1+ years to smooth itself out.

We will need to get those into the catalog for next year but right now the program level just says to talk to your advisor since there wasn't enough time to make those changes last year.

Another thing that was implemented last year and takes effect this fall was an internship course for the non-thesis master's degree. This can be used as an elective towards the 30 credits needed for the non-thesis master's degree. This was really driven by the fact that we were non-compliant with the CPT. In the past we had a placeholder course to allow students to complete those credits but that was not compliant the way we were doing it.

Other Universities are doing it one of two ways:

1. They have an internship that is required of all students that may not be credit bearing. But that's a big lift for any institution, for any program or any department to do that because you must have so

much practical hands-on experience at the site.

2. The other option is by making it an extracurricular and having it as a credit bearing course that would count towards the total. And so, it's sort of an elective that way but it is available to everybody, domestic and international students and if they want to use this as an elected towards their program course, it's credit bearing. So, they must pay for it. But they're also having job experience at the same time.

We have had 4 or 5 international students get approval for that but it does have to have an instructor of record, so someone has to sign on to liaison with the company and get reports from the supervisor and the student to justify the credit and then the course has to get sign-off and approval to make sure that it satisfies ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

Graduate Contracts

We have made significant changes in the structure of the Grad contracts. We took advantage of the Workday transition and moved to a monthly pay structure (4.5 fall, 4.5 spring plus 3-month summer contract) giving them an FTE of 0.5 year-round. We also increased the base stipend to \$32,000 or \$2,667 per month standardized year-round. In order to keep up with best practices with a lot of our peer institutions.

Policy Changes

We have seen many non-thesis master's students get into GPA hole and have a hard time getting out of it. We have really emphasized over the last couple years that a replacement policy to replace poor grades is important. Currently students are taking a bunch of courses to bring up their GPA – which isn't in anyone's best interest.

We would also like to discuss a change in the dismissed students appeal process. Currently, once Barbara turns it down then goes to faculty senate committee. Where we would like to create a parallel appeal process to the UG, so that the appeal will go to the provost instead of faculty senate.

- **Question:** How are the 4+1 programs doing? Is it trending upwards? We need to grow non-thesis masters which remains at 50% but has increased. 4+1 students are about half of that.
- **Question:** What about the cross-listed courses? Can they appear as 400 or 500 level courses? They must be in the 500 level course for it to count in this program. We do need time to delineate the 400/500 courses but we need to make sure they are in 500 AND GR when registerer for the course for it to count in the 4+1 program. When teaching the class make sure to announce that if they are thinking about doing this program to switch to the 500 level course.

Adjourn and Additional Questions

Brandon Dugan

Any additional questions or comments or anything for the next session?

- **Question:** I am wondering about bylaws and if that will be re-started? Dugan will go through items that were stalemated last year and bring them up for additional discussions. Jeff King said he would send the ideas from 2022-2023 Senate Dugan. And then additional discussions and recommendations will have follow-up if left hanging. Re-education across campus on the role of faculty senate, shared governance and how it works at Mines.

- **REMINDER:** Peer-Observation Fellow paid position is a \$5,000 salary. The program will be sent out via faculty senate and Daily Blast for those interested.
- **Question:** 1 additional senator to elect – what are the restrictions on who we can elect? Brandon will send out an email on what we are looking for and requirements plus what departments are eligible.

Faculty Senate adjourned at 3:26PM.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Guggenheim Board Room #324 and Zoom. Please send all items for agenda to dugan@mines.edu one week prior.