

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES  
November 14, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in Wagner Boardroom & Zoom

**Attendees:**

**Voting Members:** 11 total (7 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Brandon Dugan (Chair)	P	Vaughan Griffiths (CEE)	P	Jamal Rostami (CH)	A	Cortney Holles (HASS)
P	Deb Carney (AMS)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)	A	Lawrence Wiencke (PH)
P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	A	Sid Saleh (EDS)	A	Ning Wu (CBE)
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)	P	Shubham Vyas (CH)	P	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)		

**Other Regular Attendees and Guests**

P	Dinesh Mehta (Trustee)	A	Rick Holz (AA)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	Colin Terry (Student Life)
P	Sam Spiegel (Online)	A	Tim Barbari (OGS)	A	Lori Kester (EM)	P	Kristeen Serracino (AA)
P	Mark Bowen (USG)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny)	P	Andy Herring (AA)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)
P	Lauren Guido (GSG)	P	Jon Johnson (Online)	P	Nichole Bigley (AA)		

**Special Guest(s):** Christine Homer, Brandy Malatesta, Colleen Budzinski

**Welcome**

Brandon Dugan

Welcome of Kristeen Serracino

**Approval of prior meeting minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve by Mark, seconded by Pat. Motion to approve the previous minutes was passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

**Academic Affairs**

Brandon Dugan for Rick Holz

We had the groundbreaking for the USGS building yesterday (11/13). It will be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest locus of USGS employees in the country. It will be the largest USGS location co-located with the university campus. Be on the lookout for opportunities to collaborate.

This will be the last senate meeting before the Thanksgiving break. Be sure to rest and relax. Also, reminder to look out for student who are starting a stressful period of the semester.

**Registrar's Office**

Paul Myskiw

Registration week is currently going on and going well. We're looking forward to the break to gear up for the end the semester.

Calendar Committee update: met yesterday (11/13) and worked on the 2025-26 year. We looked at moving Fall Break to be the same week as Career Days. This would allow only one week that would be affected by labs and make non-class days Career Days, followed by Fall Break. We would repeat the same with

President's Day in February. This would keep us in compliance with classroom instruction time and would have the least amount on impact on courses that are lab-based.

Another conversation that we had was the length of summer semester (currently 14 weeks). We have very few instructional courses that are the full 14 weeks (mostly 6-8 weeks). It was proposed to change the official period of instruction to 12 weeks and then front loading the first 6 weeks and the first 8 weeks at the beginning of summer so that there's a natural break between end of summer and the beginning of Fall. Lastly, we adjust the calendar by one week every 4-6 years. The idea was introduced to anchor the start of Fall and Spring semesters to fixed points in time: Fall 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of August, Spring 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon/Tues of January. Calendar Committee will meet again after Thanksgiving to review schedules/calendars. More formal reporting to come.

- **Comment:** If you put an 8-week term at the beginning of the summer, it's no longer possible to take an 8 week class and 6 week class. Students now take 6 weeks and then 8 weeks in that order.
- **Answer:** We are looking at that to see what the level of the number of students who have done the 6-week/8-week combo and adjust. We are looking at the past 3 years of data to help drive this decision.

### Committee Appointments

Brandon Dugan for Cortney Holles

We will do an online vote since we do not have nomination names from Cortney. The follow committee appointments are needed:

1. Calendar Committee - 1 faculty member needed.
2. Student Media Board – 2 faculty members needed.
3. Senate representative for Handbook Committee – opened the floor for volunteers. This committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month except for January. Vaughan volunteered.
  - a. Motion Brandon and seconded by Jamal.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve Vaughan as the Senate Rep for Handbook Committee was moved by Brandon and seconded by Jamal.

### Undergraduate Council Updates

Ventzi Karaivanov

We have had two meetings since the last Senate meeting. We have approved several courses changes and a few program changes.

Change to Absence Policy was approved by UGC (12 approved, 2 opposed, 1 abstain).

- **Question:** What was the reason for the opposition?
- **Answer:** No specific reasons given.
- **Comment:** Colin will provide the latest version of the absence policy. 2 small changes need to be made when Vibhuti gets back from leave pending approval from GC.

### Economics and Business

[CIM N/A]

**1 Program change:** Business Engineering and Management Science degree

Proposing the following changes to the BEMS curriculum:

- Require students to take EBG201 or equivalent
- Reduce free electives from 12 credit hours to 9 credit hours

This results in a net zero change in total credit hours, keeping the BEMS program at 122 credit hours.

Supporting information is posted on Canvas.

**MOTION:** Motion to approve BEMS program change was moved by Brandon and seconded by Ventzi. BEMS program change was approved unanimously with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

<b>MEGN</b>		Jeff Wheeler
CIM 10/03/23		
<b>1 Program Change:</b>	MIN-BMECHE : Minor in Biomechanical Engineering	
	<p>The proposed change replaces the elective MEGN 436 (no longer offered) with MEGN 536.</p> <p>Motion to approve MIN-BMECHE program change was moved by Michael and seconded by Jeff. MIN-BMECHE program change was approved unanimously with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.</p>	

**MOTION:** Motion to approve MIN-BMECHE program change was moved by Brandon and seconded by Mark. MIN-BMECHE program change was approved unanimously with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

<b>MEGN</b>		Jeff Wheeler
CIM 10/03/23		
<b>1 Program Change:</b>	BS-MECH: BS in Mechanical Engineering	
	<p>Updated list of approved electives to include courses approved by the ME faculty.</p> <p>Biomechanics track: Updated list of electives to remove MEGN 436 Computational Biomechanics (no longer offered) as an elective. Added MEGN 536 Computation Biomechanics as an elective to the track.</p> <p>Automotive track: Updated list of electives to include new course offerings.</p> <p>Motion to approve BS-MECH program change was moved by Michael and seconded by Jeff. BS-MECH program change was approved unanimously with 15 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.</p>	

**MOTION:** Motion to approve BS-MECH program change was moved by Brandon and seconded by Vaughan. BS-MECH program change was approved unanimously with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

New course changes were presented adding CSCI128 as a co-req for MATH213 Calculus for Scientists and Engineers III, MATH225 Differential Equations, MATH310 Introduction to Mathematical Modeling, and MATH334 Introduction to Probability.

- **Question:** Was there discussion around MATH213 Calculus III and requiring a computer science course at the same time? If a student had a transfer credit or AP credit for Calc I and Calc II, within the first year, they would have to take CSCI128 if they want to take Calc III. Is that feasible? Also, adding CSCI128 as a co-req for MATH213, which is already a pre-req for MATH307, for example, causes a trail of pre-reqs.
- **Comment:** We want to be careful that we don't stack pre-reqs that are not necessary. A decent portion of incoming freshman are going into Calc III. If we added a co-req to the course, it affects our ability to get them to 15 credit hours. The more restrictions we put in place, the harder it is to build a schedule for students.
- **Question:** What if the student registers for Calc III and CSCI128 but drops one of them? Technically, they are supposed to drop both courses. Also, are there enough seats and resources for CS?

### Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

Our last meeting was on November 1<sup>st</sup> with a packed agenda. We plan to vote on several items in our next meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. There was significant discussion regarding the program change for the master's in data science modality. We will invite Doug Nychka and Sam Spiegel to the next Senate meeting to discuss based on the voting results.

### Research Council Updates

Mark Eberhart

We had our first Research Council meeting. It was very productive. During the meeting, we agreed on a plan to get caught up and get things done. There are three things per our mandate that we need to address: REI proposals, Research Investment proposals, and Junior/Senior Research Awards, and Fusion Research. For the next meeting, we will appoint subcommittees for these proposals/awards. Kristeen is helping to get our website updated so that we can create the announcement to students and collect nominations. There was discussion on how to differentiate between what is done by the Research Advisory Board versus by the Research Council and where there is overlap. A solution may be a change in bylaws to redirect what the Research Council objectives are. For Junior/Senior Awards, we will have double the funding in the Spring which will require a larger group of nominations.

### Benefits Overview

Christine Homer

Brandy Malatesta

There are a few benefit updates that we wanted to share with everyone. First, is expanded benefits regarding sick leave, FAMLI, and Family Care. Sick leave is now expanded to include if a family member's school or place of care is closed due to inclement weather or an unexpected occurrence, if there is an evacuation of an employee's place of residence, or to attend a funeral service or deal with financial/legal matters. FAMLI will be effective in January 2024 and will provide wage replacement for up to 16 weeks for a covered instance/event. Lastly, we have launched Open Enrollment in Workday. It will run from November 9<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are also now offering one-on-one Benefits appointments as well as Benefits Workday Help.

### **Trivia Night Fundraiser**

Colleen Budzinski

The Foundation's two major fundraising initiatives are the Student Emergency Fund (any student can apply for up to \$3,000 for any need) and Blaster's Basket (student pantry). We will have a Blaster's Basket drive tomorrow at the AFC Autumn Harvest Market from 11am to 3 pm in Ballroom A. We are also having a Trivia Night Fundraiser on December 15<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 9pm. We encourage departments and colleagues to get a table or register individually. It's \$25 for registration and a table can seat up to 8 people. We raise about \$5,000 for the Student Emergency Fund from the registrations. Currently, we are able halfway there. There are additional ways to donate or you can volunteer for the Silent Auction within this event with set up/tear down.

### **Board of Trustees Update**

Dinesh Mehta

The main action item from the Board of Trustees was the approval for the \$130 million dollar renovation at Mines. There was an update from ITS regarding the cyber security protocol including root access (who has it and where). Andrew will attend the next Senate meeting to have further discussion regarding ITS and the plan to close computer labs. They plan to leave monitors for student use. As campus transitions to cloud-based computing, there is a bank of 1,500 laptops that are available to students. If you hear of a student in need of a laptop, please refer them to ITS. The Board also approved applying for a state proposal for conditional money to improve the Internet pipeline. If we don't receive the proposal, we will try it again next year.

### **Memo from Mechanical Engineering**

Brandon Dugan

There was an issue that was pointed out about Workday information that is shared daily including sabbatical information and birth month/day for fellow employees. This makes some people uncomfortable that birthday information is being shared. We had a meeting with HR to discuss this. There is no legal violation since no birth year is being shared. It is also a feature of Workday that cannot be turned off or opted out of.

### **Discussion and Adjourn**

Brandon Dugan

Council representation/processes (11/28)  
Vibhuti Dave – TRAIL (12/12)  
Faculty well-being (12/5?)  
Faculty Forum (end of January?)  
Core curriculum updates (January?)  
Campus space (TBD)

*Next meeting: November 28, 2023, in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items [faculty\\_senate@mines.edu](mailto:faculty_senate@mines.edu) 1 week prior.*