

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, GH Boardroom and 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	Vibuhti Dave (UG)
P	Deb Carney (AMS)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)	P	Cortney H ()
P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Sid Saleh (EDS)	A	Who is missing?
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)	P	Shubham Vyas (CH)	P	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Brandon Dugan

Everyone should have access to the Canvas site. If you do not, let Brandon or Nichole know and we can add you to the site.

All the files are organized by date in the Canvas site under files if you need to refresh your memory, look back at previous minutes or look back at documents shared with the group.

Faculty Senate Position Update

We had a total of 69 applications. Of those, 55 applicants made it through the initial HR screen. A search committee of three will review the applicants to bring 6 individuals in for the first round of interviews, hopefully within the next two weeks.

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Brandon Dugan

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 22, 2023 motion to approve by Jamal Rostami, seconded by Name??. Unanimous for all that are present. Motion passed.

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Please thank everyone in your department for the great start to the semester and fielding any issues before they reached the Academic Affairs Office.

Today is career day, and there are over 400 companies on campus today, which makes this the biggest career day we have ever hosted. The recruiters were very excited to be here and excited to speak with our students. We want the top thing that attracts students to Mines to be our ROI, which last year the number was over \$80,000 for the starting average salary for our bachelor's degree students. Please encourage colleagues to not schedule major exams or assignments during career week so that our students can attend and meet with companies while they are here. We are continually encouraging out freshman and sophomore students to meet with potential employers who are willing and able to help train students in their field while they are still in school so that they have the skills and knowledge to start their career after graduation.

Update on the census numbers for new freshman: We ended up at 1,458, which is down a little bit from last year by design (we were shooting for 1,450). Last year at census we had 1,515 and we want to be somewhere between 1,450 and 1,500 for the Mines@150 plan. We ended up losing transfer (particularly international transfers) our goal is to get around 180 transfers over the next two years. We ended up with a total new student count of 1,588.

Our diversity numbers were 33.3% female and over 34% people of color which is the highest we have ever had (last year it was a little under 29%). Admissions is continuing to work hard to maintain diversity on campus. One area we are still lagging in is the number of Hispanic students, so we still have some work to do to make sure we are creating a welcoming environment for those students. The total number of students applying has dropped a bit since covid and we are trying to figure out why. However, retention numbers are still strong, with 94% retention and an 83% graduation rate.

- **Question:** Do you have any of the numbers for our graduate students? No specific graduate numbers but we do have 708 Ph.D students and a little over 900 Master's students. The number of women is similar to the UG students but not sure on the people of color, maybe a little bit lower. We are behind in the number of non-thesis master's students and will be a major push this year from the Provost Office. How do we increase these students in person and online? This is one way to generate additional revenue so we can continue to invest in faculty hiring and new staff etc. We need to get to about 1,600 in order to have a competitive budget moving forward and we are about 700 students short.
- **Question:** For the Petroleum Engineering department we are not accepting many **ME** students because of the GRE. Are other departments still sticking to it? No, several departments have dropped the GRE requirement for Master's students, but they are still requiring it for their Ph.D students. This is ultimately up to the department but for our own students we are automatically accepting students with a 3.0 GPA into the 4 + 1 program.

The other thing is how do we build the +1 component of all those 4 + 1 programs and how do we build them out online? Many employers have willingness to pay tuition of someone they have hired if they have already started it and if they can do it online, the student can do it online and still work full-time.

- **Question:** Is the online program also available to the international student as well? Yes, most of our online students, nationally, come within 75 miles of the institution but we will have programs that we offer that will be of great interest to international students.
- **Question:** Are you open to having hybrid programs? I think we are more than amenable to having

hybrid programs. We do need to have some boundaries, if you are an in-person student then you have a limited number of online courses you can take but if the curriculum is designed and approved as hybrid then that is fine.

- **Question:** Would Mines be able to offer 4 months or 1 semester of English for those who are ESL? Not sure if there is anyone on staff that would be able to offer that, but that is something we could think about if there is a demand for that.
- **Question:** Where do we stand on the grad certificate? 265 online students.

Dugan will bring updates about these revenue generators to the Faculty Senate. We need to think outside of the box when thinking about how to make some of these programs more effective. The reason we need these revenue generators is because 60-65% of our total budget comes from UG tuition. We are only able to increase UG tuition by 2-3% on average per year. The state only provides \$10 million per year, which is 7% of our overall budget. Research is a cost negative; we spend more on research than we bring in. So, the only lever we have is the non-thesis number in order to generate extra revenue to hire new faculty/staff and continue to fund new initiatives to be the best.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Registrar is working with the vendor for CIM and we will be able to bring that up by the end of the week or next week at the latest.

The registrar is moving banner to the cloud, which means all hands-on deck (25 years of data). The anticipated go live date is May 2, 2024. What this means is that the office will be more distracted, ensuring that is a seamless transition and may increase response time.

There is some confusion about what faculty can and cannot do on days listed as "no exam days". This was originally brought up last year and then Rick charged Vibhuti and Paul to pull it all together and work with the calendar committee to put definitions around it and the changes were inserted into the academic calendar. This change caught some faculty off guard. The link and definitions are listed on the web page that explains the changes.

Over the summer, a copy editor was hired (as best practice) to review the UG and Grad catalog to make sure it all sounds like a single institution. The edits will come back in the next couple of weeks and then we will go in on the back end and insert those changes once the next catalog is up and available.

- **Question:** We submitted dates in June, but the exam schedule didn't come out until the semester had already started. Can we get that earlier? Yes, it should be a one-time thing. Last year we were on classroom management software (different from the rest of campus) which was up for renewal and the decision was made to move to EMS Campus and make it a single solution. That took most of the summer to do which created a delay in getting that schedule out.
- **Question:** The time shift is 7 o'clock and there are conflicts with that 7 o'clock time (like a design course). We worked out a schedule with math/chemistry/physics and a few others to know which common exams we were going to schedule and those we were going to prioritize first. We rolled back the common exam time to what it was two years ago due to student demand and the burden on the testing center. We will work with instructors when there are conflicts with common, but we do try to avoid those conflicts as much as we can. Paul will work with Sarah to see why this specific conflict was created as there weren't any conflicts when we originally scheduled it.

Senate Secretary & Council Chairs

Brandon Dugan

Senate Secretary – Cortney Holles
Graduate Council Chair – Soutir Bandyopadhyay
Research Council Chair – Mark Eberhart

MOTION: To approve the three committee members listed above, the motion to approve by **Shubham Vyas**, seconded by **Cristian Ciobanu**. Unanimous for all that are present. Motion passed.

The one letter of intent was circulated to everyone for the one open position. Are there any questions/comments?

- **Comment:** Hoping for more gender diversity.
- **Question:** Is the GGE period for nomination closed or is there time? I am okay to leave it open for another week to see if there are any more nominations? Dugan can send a reminder email and will put it on the agenda for the September 26th meeting.

Senate and Committee Appointments

Cortney Holles

Those names in italics are those that have volunteered for more than one committee. There are some that are completely open. We will need to double check before we finalize anything.

Academic Standards Committee (2 vacancies)

Mike Nicholas (AMS)
Owen Hildreth (ME)
Polina Ringler (ME)
Serveh Kamrava (PE)
Jonathan Miorelli (CH) - APPOINTED
Alina Handorean (EDS) - APPOINTED

Colorado Faculty Advisory Council Representative (1 vacancy)

Carlos Goncalves (EDS)
Greg Jackson (ME) - APPOINTED
Serveh Kamrava (PE)

Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics (2 vacancies)

Mike Nicholas (AMS)
Polina Ringler (ME)
Lisa Nickum (Library)
Megan Moyer (CH) - APPOINTED
Senator

Faculty Survey Committee (3 vacancies + 1 chair)

Ebru Bozdog (AMS) [chair] - APPOINTED
Xioali Zhang [ME] - APPOINTED
Christian Beren [CH] - APPOINTED
Polina Ringler (ME)
Jonathan Miorelli (CH)
Alina Handorean (EDS) -- APPOINTED

Library Committee (1 vacancy)

Jonathan Miorelli (CH) - APPOINTED

Senator [chair]

Online Standards Committee

Ventzi Karaivanov [chair]

Student Readmissions Committee?

Owen Hildrith (ME) – SELECT ALTERNATIVE INSTEAD

Jeff Holley () – Replacement for sabbatical leave (1 year extension)

Chris ?? (Library)

Emily Smith (PH)

Mariza Pazzazi (PE)

Terone Vincent (EE)

Pat Kohl (PH) – Chair/Senate

University Committees**Biosafety Committee (2 vacancies)**

Matthew Ketterling (ITS)

Owen Hildreth (ME) – APPOINTED

Budget Committee (1 senate + 1 faculty vacancy)

Shubham Vyas (Senate/CH) – APPOINTED

Robert Braun (ME) - APPOINTED

Handbook Committee (1 vacancy for teaching faculty)

Mike Nicholas (AMS)

Polina Ringler (ME)

Paula Farca (HASS) - APPOINTED

Christian Shorey (GGE)

Jonathan Miorelli (CH)

Alina Handorean (EDS)

Promotion and Tenure Committee (1 vacancy)**ON HOLD FOR MORE NOMINATIONS**

Vaughan Griffiths (CEE)

Parisa Bazazi (PE)

Safety Committee (2 vacancies)

Owen Hildreth (ME) - APPOINTED

Paula Farca (HASS)

Holly Borrero (Student Outreach & Support)

Student Conduct Appeals Committee (2 vacancies)

Polina Ringler (ME)

Lisa Nickum (Library) - APPOINTED

Amanda Jameer (CH) - APPOINTED

Holly Borrero (Student Outreach & Support)
Jonathan Miorelli (CH)

Teaching Faculty Promotion Committee (3 vacancies, need 6 nominations)

ON HOLD FOR MORE NOMINATIONS

Carlos Goncalves (EDS)
Mike Nicholas (AMS)
Christian Shorey (GGE)

Technology Fee Committee (2 vacancies)

Owen Hildreth (ME)
Ian Hales (ITS)
Polina Ringler (ME) – APPOINTED
Lisa Nickum (Library)
Paula Farca (HASS) – APPOINTED
Alina Handorean (EDS)

There will need to be a final check, confirm with some that they are okay with serving on multiple committees. So, this will be finalized at our next meeting.

MOTION: To bring the finalized list of committee members to the next meeting. Motion approved by all present. None opposed.

Undergraduate Council Updates 1:51:33

Ventzi Karaivanov

The UG Council first meeting will be tomorrow. The course management system is not available yet but there will be an update next time. Calendar of deadline review (on Canvas website for download).

Deadline creep has been a real issue, so we need to encourage sticking to the deadline. The deadlines reflect those times where we were physically printing the catalog to hand out to students. There may be some conversation to be had around the deadlines.

There is a lot of review and updating that goes into getting the catalog ready for publications so it is important to stick to the deadlines. Although, there is significant time spent in the various committees (faculty senate, the BOT etc) so there may be room to “trim the fat”.

Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

Important graduate council deadlines:

September 27, 2023	Deadline to change any existing program for the Spring 2024 term.
September 27, 2023	Deadline to introduce a new course or change an existing course for Spring 2024 term

A discussion was led by Tina regarding the master’s non-thesis online data science program. Tina gave the grad councilors a run-down about what happened over the summer.

Undergraduate Student Government Updates

Mark Bowen

We have a full team working this semester. With respect to career days, we are very excited about the

possibility of no classes during career days so they can really focus on getting an internship and landing an interview without classes impeding. The calendar committee will be addressing this idea this year, keeping in mind the total number of minutes you must be in class.

We are looking at a broad guideline to target assignment due dates at 10PM instead of midnight to encourage and improve student sleep health.

Looking at creating a group to look at data regarding identifying those students that may need additional intervention.

We are really pushing for ways to encourage mental and physical health across all our students. We can't give our students more time to complete their assignments, and many will procrastinate but we can encourage healthy sleep habits by creating an earlier deadline for assignments and work.

- **Question:** Is there something that precipitated this push? One of our members had a class with deadlines at 8PM and it really changed the way he worked which sparked the larger conversation in our group.

We could go from department to department to gather student data and determine what is needed that way.

We are having a large uptick in the use of inappropriate use of travel grants. The amount given in GSE travel grants may be affected, which will have an immediate effect on your students being able to travel to events so please ensure that your partner research groups are being respectful of everyone.

2024 Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecture

Brandon Dugan

March 5, 2024

MOTION: As to when the Faculty Senate Distinguished Lecture takes place. All approved **March 5, 2024**.
None opposed.

Discussion and Adjourn

Brandon Dugan

Next meeting: September 26, 2023 in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items to faculty_senate@mines.edu 1 week prior.