

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

September 26, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Guggenheim Boardroom/[Zoom](#)

Attendees:

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

P	Brandon Dugan (Chair)	A	Vaughan Griffiths (CEE)	A	Jamal Rostami (CH)	P	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	Open Seat
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)	P	Shubham Vyas (CH)	P	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s): Allyce Horan, Dinesh Mehta

Welcome

Brandon Dugan

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Brandon Dugan

MOTION: All present in favor, none opposed

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

We are in the 6th week of the semester. Which means we only have 10 weeks left. No big issues around campus. We had two full career days where there were 410 different companies at career days and 4000+ students. There was some push back of students missing class to attend career days and faculty having assignments due that day so there is still some work to do on that front.

The Board of Trustee (BOT) meeting was a week ago Friday. Bradon attended and shared the goals of the Faculty Senate and then seemed very happy with what is happening.

Finally, Tammy Strange will be retiring at the end of October.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Updates on new position: There are four interviews this week for Mara's successor and finalists will come to campus the following week.

CIM is finally up and running and councils can now submit course and program changes through the system.

Open Educational Resources for Online Technical

Communication Center

Allyce Horan

Allyce Horan's presentation will be uploaded on canvas. The Online Technical Communication Center (OTCC) is an online resource that allows you to integrate technical writing and oral communication into your course without sacrificing content or class time. The OTCC just received another grant from the Colorado Department of Higher Education to create 25 more open educational resources. Ultimately, our goal is to create resources that work for you.

The unique thing about these is that they are open educational resources. If you are not familiar with that basically it is a resource that can be modified or used. We want you to be able to modify these to your needs. So, if you were to submit a request that specifically works for a 400-level class that you're teaching.

Our goal with this, too, is to create open educational resources that can reach a large group of students. We will often get requests that 2 or 3 faculty are looking for a similar topic, and we would prioritize that one. But certainly, the more requests we get, the more specific as possible and we can tailor them to your needs. Each resource has 3 tiers: a video (under 3 minutes), a handout, and a worksheet.

The unique thing about our resource is that we only use examples from STEM. This really maximizes the translation into what our students are working on.

We are hoping that we can get a wider range of requests from faculty. We have tried to keep the form as simple as possible to make it easier. Feel free to peruse the website: WWW.OTCC.MINES.EDU

- **Question:** Question from Shubham Vyas. Yes, those are the same thing.
- **Question:** You can partner up with people, but if you see 3 faculty with similar topics someone could link them up to try to coordinate a topic. That is correct, we can make it work for each person.
- **Question:** Can you give me a specific example? We have all the different topics on our website that you can browse. One that is popular is concise sentence structure. It talks about what that means, how to incorporate 1-2 related ideas in a sentence using examples from STEM. Then it has a handout further elaborating this idea and a worksheet prompting them to create concise sentences.
- **Question:** How does this integrate with the course? We have a Canvas site that you can copy so that it is already set up for you. Also, faculty uses feedback on anything they are creating so they can link to the resource and ask the student to watch the 2-minute video to get context.

Any additional questions please email AHoran@mines.edu.

Senate and Committee Appointments

Cortney Holles

Academic Standards Committee (2 vacancies)

Jonathan Miorelli (CH) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Alina Handorean (EDS) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Colorado Faculty Advisory Council Representative (1 vacancy)

Greg Jackson (ME) – SELECTED FOR APPOINTMENT

Distinguished Lecture Series Committee (1 appointment)

Ryan Richards (CH) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics (2 vacancies)

Mike Nicholas (AMS)
Polina Ringler (ME)
Lisa Nickum (Library) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Megan Moyer (CH) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Cristian Ciobanu (Senator)

Faculty Survey Committee (3 vacancies + 1 chair)

Ebru Bozdog (AMS) [chair] - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Xioali Zhang [ME] - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Christian Beren [CH] - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Polina Ringler (ME) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Library Committee (1 vacancy)

Jonathan Miorelli (CH) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Cortney Holles (HASS/Senate)

Online Standards Committee

Ventzi Karaivanov [chair] - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Student Readmissions Committee (5 vacancies + 1 sabbatical replacement)

Jeff Holley (CEE) – RECOMMENDED FOR 1-YEAR APPOINTMENT (sabbatical replacement)
Chris Thiry (Library) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Emily Smith (PH) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Parisa Bazazi (PE) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Tyrone Vincent (EE) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Pat Kohl (PH) – Chair/Senate – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

University Committees

Biosafety Committee (2 vacancies)

Matthew Ketterling (ITS) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Owen Hildreth (ME) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Budget Committee (1 senate + 1 faculty vacancy)

Shubham Vyas (Senate/CH) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Robert Braun (ME) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Handbook Committee (1 vacancy for teaching faculty)
Alina Handorean (EDS) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Promotion and Tenure Committee (1 vacancy) – ALL RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT (RH Decide)
Vaughan Griffiths (CEE)
Tzahi Cath (CEE)
John Spear (CEE)
Thomas Albrecht-Schoenzart (CH)

Safety Committee (2 vacancies)
Owen Hildreth (ME) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Paula Farca (HASS) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Student Conduct Appeals Committee (2 vacancies)
Lisa Nickum (Library) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Amanda Jameer (CH) - RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Technology Fee Committee (2 vacancies)
Polina Ringler (ME) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT
Paula Farca (HASS) – RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT

Dugan would like to switch up the timeline so that the requests for committee volunteers comes out in March and then we vote in April or May so that we can start business at the beginning of the year instead of appointing people. To start this process in Spring 2024.

MOTION: To approve all committee recommendations above. All present in favor, none opposed.

One Senate appointment. Dugan chose not to re-announce, we currently have one nomination.

MOTION: To appoint **Wu Ming** to faculty senate. All approved that are present. None opposed.

The committee below was removed from the motion as we still need one additional nomination:

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

Christian Shorey (GGE)
Chelsea Salinas
Terry Bridgman
Jonathan Cullison
Crystal Dobratz
NEED ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS

Undergraduate Council Updates

Ventzi Karaivanov

See Undergraduate Council document uploaded on Canvas.

Proposed change to absence policy

It was time to revisit the Absenteeism Policy which is in the catalog under “Academic Regulations”. There was clarification needed around when should faculty give make-up work to students versus when is it ok to drop a student’s grade for an excused absence. Please share with all your colleagues so they can read through the new policy and give any feedback.

It is intended to let students know that they are expected to participate and fulfill their academic requirements and attendance is something that is a normal expectation.

Since covid, the changes to documentation from clinics and doctors have changed drastically so we have created a form accessible to students to submit to their instructor to let them know of short-term illness (1-3 days).

If Makeup work is required, it can be an identical or an alternative activity that is comparable where a removed grade is used if the faculty determine that the activity cannot be made up. See additional language for this in the written policy.

- **Question:** When is senate approval required for UG changes? New program and program changes and courses when it is part of the Core curriculum.
- **Question:** This document will tell us what to do when a student is missing an assignment? Encouraged you to look through the policy, the new policy will give greater agency to the faculty to what they can offer, when they can set limits, when they can recommend withdrawal plus it provides guidance (from a legal perspective) of how to navigate a “dropped grade” Being discussed in UG and Grad Council but neither has been endorsed by either council and is still in draft.
- **Question:** If a student is absent and that is excused, that grade must be dropped? No, faculty can provide a make-up assignment. From a legal perspective it must be fair from student to student regarding how many opportunities each student has.
- **Question:** How big was the committee? Vibhuti and Collin chaired the committee, but recommendations came from across campus, math, computer science, chemistry. About 7-8 faculty on the committee. The draft policy has all the names of the faculty on the committee.

Additional discussion will be reserved for the October 10th Senate meeting once revisions have been completed.

- **Question:** Should faculty be encouraging students to use the short-term absence form? Is there any reason they need to fill it out? This was requested by multiple faculty members who want/need written documentation of absences. This presents a bigger conversation of how each faculty handles absences and if there should be a written policy dictating it.

Course Changes

Several minor course changes we requested and discussed during the UG Council meeting. These changes should not require any significant Senate discussion.

- Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Engineering, Design and Society
- Physical Education and Athletics (PA)
- Petroleum Engineering

- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Physics

All of these will be transferred to CIM soon for review.

Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

CIM is not fully active, I have reached out to Rachel but have not heard anything from the help desk.

Online master's in data science

The idea was introduced in the last meeting, and we will have a discussion on the October 4th meeting of Graduate Council.

- **Question:** Some of the concerns from previous discussion was that course offering for the residential program were not completely aligned or equitable. How would you accommodate that? Yes, some of the grad counselors raised serious concerns. Most want to have a joint discussion on this topic. They think that the online version and the in-person are not the same and they are getting this feedback directly from the students. More feedback will be gathered, and a meeting will be proposed to have the discussion.

There will be more information in the next week or so.

Research Council Updates

Mark Eberhart

First meeting next Wednesday and meetings will be the first Wednesday of the month. There were no meetings in September. The council is far behind on a couple of items. The Research Council is responsible for the research instrumentation and research grants. The process of submitting the grants is tied to the research council website which access is not yet granted. Additionally, the committed money is up to the approval of the Deans, which has not yet happened.

Membership of the council requirements includes those from interdisciplinary programs that offer Graduate degrees. The reporting lines are unclear and so membership is sparse from what it should be.

The Deans should recommend 2 research faculty from each portfolio, but nothing has been communicated from either Dean.

Representation and membership, specifically with the interdisciplinary programs, are a bigger conversation across all committees that will be had in October as it affects all committees. How do we get representation, and when to present to each council.

- **Question:** Is there a timeline on the successor to Mara? Hopefully within the next couple of weeks.

With Eberhart representation on Research Council as well as Research Advisory Board there will need to be additional communication between the two.

- **Comment:** The outdated website makes us look like to do not have it together.

Board of Trustees Meeting (9/15/23) Summary

Dinesh Mehta

There are 5 items that were discussed and important to mention:

1. A couple additional infrastructure projects that will be added to the institutions debt that will be paid for by students and is not expected to impact academic programs. These two projects will bring the Mines debt from \$411 million to \$780 million.
 - a. Mines Park (\$151 million)
 - b. Sophomore housing (\$218 million)
2. Requested Mines administration to provide faculty with information, insight and rationale into AA budgeting decisions. This will likely occur later in the semester.
3. The Board approved an updated Conflict of Interest (CoI policy). Included in this are “changes to regulatory requirements, including but not limited to the inclusion of Conflict of commitment and Foreign affiliations and activities as a subset of Conflict of Interest.”
4. The Board approved a new workplace harassment policy to remain in compliance with the “POWR act” Protecting Opportunities and Workers’ Rights Act passed by the State of Colorado. The new policy reduces the threshold for harassment, which will now be defined as follows:

“Harassment means to engage in, or the act of engaging in, any unwelcome physical or verbal conduct or any written, pictorial, or visual communication directed at an individual or group of individuals because of that individual’s or group’s membership in, or perceived membership in, a protected class, and the conduct is subjectively offensive to the individual alleging harassment and is objectively offensive to a reasonable individual who is a member of the same protected class.”

The definition for Sexual Harassment (for non-Title IX purposes) has been removed as the new Harassment definition includes Sexual Harassment. Additional Federal regulatory changes are expected in October 2023 (under Title IX). Mines policy will need to be further updated when these are available.

5. Requested information and analysis of academic faculty departures be presented at the first (September) Board meeting of each AY along with information about newly hired faculty. Also requested is that similar information be provided for administrative faculty.

Limit Turnover/Keeping Faculty at Mines

There are many different reasons that faculty leave, offer from industry, work-life balance etc. and compensation is just one facet. There has been a 5-6-fold increase in the support that we offer our undergraduate students but no increase in support to faculty. As a state institution, you are generally referred to the state since we have no resources here.

- Have each DH compile wages of their faculty and present to Faculty Senate to view the variance.
- Survey to see how many hours each faculty member works (maybe at each level)

A survey committee was appointed in January of last year, however a survey has not been sent out this year. This will be a priority for this group. A more personal/informal request will garner more response than an official survey.

The Ombuds position was brought to campus a couple years ago and had support of most of campus except for AA. Encourage anyone to apply and the salary is just a starting point. It may be a small starting point for just faculty, but it could lead to more representation across campus. Ombuds representation is widespread across each University.

The schools that were compared in terms of Ombuds representation, had a wide range of a couple of cases per year to a full-time position run by an external support.

- **Suggestion:** Someone should come to the faculty senate to explain about lab space/office space and how to request or how to get what faculty needs out of space. (Possibly in November)

The Senate used to have a budget that they were charged with, and the chair was given a course release which is no longer the case. That could be why faculty are not volunteering as it seems like Faculty Senate cannot make a difference. There has been discussion on reintroducing some of these things including negotiations of a monetary equivalent.

Faculty Senate Presented Goals to the BOT

- Commitment to follow up on core curriculum changes.
- Getting the Ombuds office up and running.
- What institutional support is needed to grow and maintain our R1 status.
- How do we contribute to Mines@150

Discussion and Adjourn

Brandon Dugan

Upcoming Visitors and Topics

Kamini Singha – Research Faculty (10/10)

Peter Han – Mines@150 (10/10)

Kirsten Volpi – Budget and Finance (10/24 – to be confirmed)

Christine Homer – Benefits/handbook language changes (November)

Campus Space – To be added to the agenda.

The cost of retention vs. the cost of hiring and campus space constraints. Where we will be in the short term (1-2 years) instead of saying that a new building is being built.

Next meeting: October 10, 2023 in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items to faculty_senate@mines.edu 1 week prior.