

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 October 24, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in GH Boardroom & Zoom

Attendees:

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

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| P | Brandon Dugan (Chair) | P | Vaughan Griffiths (CEE) | P | 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) | P | Ning Wu (CBE) |
| P | Mark Eberhart (CH) | P | Shubham Vyas (CH) | P | Cristian Ciobanu (ME) | | |

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s): Kirsten Volpi

Welcome

Brandon Dugan

Upcoming Events

Lunch with the Board of Trustees tomorrow (10/25). Tammy Strange’s retirement party 10/26 from 3 pm – 5 pm.

Approval of prior minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve by Ventzi, seconded by Shubham. Motion to approve the previous minutes was passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

Academic Affairs

Andy Herring

Andy Herring spoke on behalf of Rick Holtz who was delayed. Reminder regarding the Board of Trustees meeting tomorrow (10/25). The agenda is available online.

There was a lockdown incident that occurred last week due to a threatening call. It ended up being a prank, but the origin of the call and who made it is being investigated. There is a very large investment in emergency planning for instances such as these to keep everyone on campus safe.

- **Question:** How much has been shared with the students?
- **Answer:** No details have been shared yet.

Update on Einstein Bros operating hours. They will be open longer hours in the Venture Center.

The AA office has published the procedures manual. We are hoping it will be a useful document. If there is a procedure that does not work, please let us know and we can edit it. New sections include 6.9 and 7.5, which are currently live.

- **Question:** We noticed that the faculty handbook differs in language and seems expanded in the procedure's manual.
- **Answer:** The faculty handbook is intended to be the minimum. The procedures manual serves as an expansion to criteria.
- **Question:** As a committee, which do we use?
- **Answer:** The handbook will take precedence. If the procedures manual conflicts with the handbook, the handbook will always win. However, if there are conflicts between the handbook and the procedures manual that you feel we should address, please let us know.

- **Comment:** There has been discussion that for students that stay on campus later into the night, there are no food options available during those hours.
- **Comment:** The lack of food available during evening hours has been brought up at a Student Life panel geared towards Graduate students. It is a concern that Student Life has been made aware of and is working on.

Registrar's Office Announcements

Paul Myskiw

We will be turning on the Spring '24 schedule this weekend. It will be available to students on Monday. Registration begins November 13th. To help with publishing issues, Kristeen Serracino, starts on Monday, October 30th as Mara's successor.

One of the things that is missing from the catalog is ABET program outcomes so we will be working on inserting those administratively onto the overview tab of the catalog.

- **Question:** Do we know why the ABET program outcomes disappeared?
- **Answer:** A few programs still have the program outcomes listed on the catalog, but many, over the years, have been taken off. The content has also become too lengthy with non-uniform formats. Recommendation is to create a style guide for the overview tab to take back to the councils and departments. The program outcomes should introduce the discipline and act as an advertisement to entice potential students of what the programs are about.

Committee Appointments

Cortney Holles

We have a couple more positions to fill. We are seeking two people for the Student Media Committee and one person for the Calendar Committee. Proposal to introduce a Budget Committee position opening.

- **Question:** How long of a term is served for these committees as a Senate representative? What is the process for nomination?
- **Answer:** Reappointment is every year but can serve more than one year if requested. For P&T and Teaching Faculty Promotion the senate will nominate several potential candidates to send to the provost. The provost will make the final decision by assessing each nominee's experience, career stage, balance, diversity, etc.

Proposal to introduce a Budget Committee position opening. Serveh Kamrava (PE) was presented as a nominee for the Budget Committee.

MOTION: Motion to approve by Shubham, seconded by Vaughan. Motion to approve the Budget Committee position opening was passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

Undergraduate Council Updates

Ventzi Karaivanov

Undergraduate Council voted during their last meeting and approved the changes below:

- 1.1 **CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING** Michael Barankin
 [CIM 10/10/23]
1 Program change: MIN-BMEDE - BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING MINOR
 We wanted to update the BME minor with the following Engineering Elective Courses additions to the electives list: BIOL 300 - INTRODUCTION TO QUANTITATIVE BIOLOGY I, CSCI 478 - INTRODUCTION TO BIOINFORMATICS, MATH 472 - MATHEMATICAL AND COMPUTATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE
- **Question:** How many students are in the minor? Were there any questions and/or concerns from the Undergraduate Council regarding this change?
 - **Answer:** No concerns. The number of students was not discussed during voting.
 - **Question:** When changes are approved by councils, who assesses the resources and/or need for the changes to ensure faculty availability and prevent over-enrollment?
 - **Answer:** In CIM, there is a check off list with the anticipated impact that requires all affected departments to review it.

MOTION: Motion to approve Biological Engineering minor changes by Shubha, seconded by Mark. Motion to approve Biological Engineering minor changes was passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

- 1.2.1 **EDS** Chelsea Salinas
 [CIM 9/26/23]
1 Program change: BS-DSGN – Design Engineering Program
 Removal of classes that are no longer taught and updating language.
- **Question:** What kind of update is being made to the language?
 - **Answer:** Language changes include the description of courses and when they are taken to accommodate prerequisite requirements.

MOTION: Motion to approve the Design Engineering program change by Shubham, seconded by Ventzi. Motion to approve the Design Engineering program change was passed unanimously with zero abstentions.

- 1.2.2 **EDS** Chelsea Salinas
 [CIM 10/9/23]
1 Course change: EDNS 200 - INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN ENGINEERING
 Updating pre-reqs to reflect changes mentioned above
 [CIM 9/29/23]
1 Course change:
 EDNS 291 - DESIGN UNLEASHED
 Updating pre-reqs to reflect changes in the program

- 1.3 **PA**
 [CIM 10/9/23]
1 Course Deactivation: PAGN133 - OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP
 No longer taught.
2 Course changes: PAGN288 – Advanced Racquetball
 Needs actual course number.

- i. 1 credit
- ii. Taught once per week
- iii. Objective-Advance their understanding and skills in racquetball
- iv. Fall 2023 second time being taught

PAGN183 - Cheer and Dance

Needs actual course number.

- i. 1 credit hour
- ii. Similar to other PAGN Varsity sport class
- iii. Gives these athletes credit for their participation in their sports
- iv. Fall 2023 first time taught

PAGN251 – GOLF

Course Description: Please add “Course is taught at a local course, requires personal transportation”

1.4 PE

[CIM 9/26/23]

1 Course change: PEGN430 - Environmental Law & Sustainability

Prerequisite: HASS100 - NATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

Co-requisite: HASS200 - GLOBAL STUDIES

“PEGN430 Environmental Law & Sustainability is approved for HASS 400-level course credit. To be consistent with other HASS 400-level courses, the following prerequisite and corequisite need to be added to PEGN430 Environmental Law & Sustainability: Prerequisite: HASS100. Co-requisite: HASS200

This topic was discussed with Dr. Cortney Holles, HASS UG Advisor. Dr. Holles agrees with the addition of the above prerequisite and corequisite.”

1.5 CEE

[CIM 9/21/23]

1 Course change: CEEN314 - Structural Theory

name change to: CEEN314 Structural Analysis

This change is to align the course name with other universities/programs national widely. Majority of the programs in the U.S. name this course as Structural analysis. Most textbooks on this topic (e.g. Hibbeler’s book) are also named as Structural Analysis or similar terms. This will benefit the students as the course name in their transcript can be better understood.

1.6 PH

[CIM 9/22/23]

1 New Course Modality: Online version of PHGN462 (summer session only) - Electromagnetic Waves and Optical Physics

We propose the creation of an online version of an existing course (PHGN462). The course is required for the Engineering Physics B.S. degree and the associated combined master's programs. It is usually taken in the fall of the senior year, and a very long chain of prerequisites makes it unlikely that a student can take it prior to the senior year. Thus, it tends to serve as a bottleneck course, and can produce conflicts with the required senior-year courses from the eleven different combined programs that the physics B.S. anchors.

In response to these problems, the physics department currently offers an in-person version of PHGN462 in the summer. Many students at this stage of their academic careers spend their summers working at internships or research programs, and are not available for in-person courses, but could take an online course. Preliminary data suggest that offering the course online would change the typical enrollment from 10-15 per summer to 20-25 per summer.

This new course primarily satisfies the "Expand offerings and diversify delivery" aspect of MINES@150. The flexibility that it would add to students pursuing combined programs may also improve recruiting, since we lean heavily on the presence and practicality of those combined programs during our departmental recruiting. This could apply to the "Top-of-mind and first-choice university" aspect of MINES@150.

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|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| AMS | | Mike Nicholas |
| CIM 9/27/23 | | |
| 1 Course change: | MATH 332 – LINEAR ALGEBRA | |
| | Adding CS128 as prereq to MATH307, MATH332, MATH225, and MATH334 to be able to leverage programming ability in these courses. | |

- **Question:** If Senate only votes on core courses, how does that work with, for example, math courses that have various prerequisites that affect core courses?
- **Answers:** Senate vote only applies to changes to core courses, but not prerequisite changes.
- **Question:** Should we be concerned about prerequisite changes as this affects the students from completing core courses in a timely manner.
- **Comment:** Enforcing prerequisites, such as Computer Science, could just be an advising piece instead of a strongly enforced rule to ensure success in the core courses.

Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

In our last graduate council meeting, we introduced a lot of course changes and new courses. Most of the graduate council representatives did not find any of the changes too controversial. We will vote at the next council meeting on November 1st.

We will also vote on the online Master's in Data Science program. There have been some issues that have come up in our discussion. A few of our representatives worked outside of the meeting to attempt to

resolve some of those issues and will present them at the next meeting. Lastly, we revised the absence policy after some feedback was received from graduate council members. I have encouraged all representatives to reach out to their respective departments to receive additional feedback. The undergraduate council will vote on the change in absence policy on November 8th. Graduate council vote on the change in the absence policy on November 15th.

Brandon and Soutir will visit the graduate GSG meeting on October 30th to provide context on the history and evolution of the Ombuds office and address any questions.

Research Council Updates

Mark Eberhart

The Research Council has yet to have a meeting. We were scheduled to meet at the beginning of October but needed to cancel. Our plan is to conduct the research instrumentation awards (given in Fall and Spring). The Fall awards were missed so we plan to do a single, larger awards in the Spring. We also plan to conduct selections on the junior and senior outstanding researchers. We are hoping to get assistance from the new Program Assistant in getting control of our website to set up the application process for these award selections.

Budget Overview

Kirsten Volpi

With a lot of enrollment challenges across the nation, there is a lot of competition in STEM. More universities are budgeting to add STEM programs, online programs, and customizable degrees. Mines has had record enrollment over the last 15 years, however, our dependency on undergraduate tuition is growing more (~75%), which has caused pressure on undergraduate involvement. This has caused more focus on student affordability. We have not raised rates more than 3-5% in the last decade. While increasing, there is annual uncertainty with state higher education funding. Mines is currently 39th in the nation of state funding due to being an institution with more non-resident students and because we are a research university. This has caused expense growth to outpace revenue growth.

We operate in two funds: operating funds (tuition, state funding, housing/dining, investments) and restricted funds (financial aid and research). In the operating funds, Mines ended with a net surplus for the fiscal year 2023 but is getting tighter in terms of wiggle room.

For the 2024 budget, there is a tight margin between expenses and revenue. Upcoming building projects include Mines Park Redevelopment and Sophomore housing to ensure capacity for first and second-year students, who are typically housed on campus, and add an additional 500 beds in Mines Park to support graduate students.

Our current designated reserves for the 2023 fiscal year include academic research and student fees. A significant number of reserves were used for construction on classroom building. We're putting internal renovations on hold to ensure project prioritization. We have purchased a few properties to alleviate some space concerns on campus. Our new chief architect is doing a full space analysis to determine what spaces are available/not available.

- **Question:** There has been talk of raising resources through non-thesis master's programs since we have capped grad/undergrad student tuition. Do we have a formula on how many students are needed to provide ample resources from these programs?

- **Answer:** We are currently evaluating MSNT, online MSNT, and continuing education to calculate approximately how much is needed/how many additional students are needed to provide ample resources.
- **Question:** How does ONR make the assessment of what our indirect rates are?
- **Answer:** We do an entire analysis every 3-4 years, depending on what the rate is. We determine what the direct expenses of research are and the indirect expenses. Our rate has been around 50% for a long time. This tells us how much space is needed for research and what the indirect costs that go toward research.

Discussion and Adjourn

Brandon Dugan

Removal/Controlled Use of Local Admin Rights

Policies are being made to prevent security breaching. The current concern is for those that are traveling or are remote in a location that has a significant time difference. We need to ensure that the support is present for all our research activities.

Upcoming Visitors and Topics

Christine Homer – Benefits (November)

Council representation/processes (November)

Vibhuti Dave – TRAIL (12/12)

Campus space (TBD)

Faculty well-being (TBD)

Next meeting: November 28, 2023, in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items faculty_sentate@mines.edu 1 week prior.