

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in GH 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)	P	Cortney Holles (HASS)
P	Deb Carney (AMS)	P	Soutir Bandyopadhyay (AMS)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)		Lawrence Wiencke (PH)
P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Pat Kohl (PH)	P	Sid Saleh (EDS)	P	Ning Wu (CBE)
P	Mark Eberhart (CH)		Shubham Vyas (CH)	P	Cristian Ciobanu (ME)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s): Doug Nychka (AMS), Hua Wang (CS)

Welcome

Brandon Dugan

I hope you all had a good, long weekend and enjoyed some time off before the end of the semester. We received an email about the incomplete policy so if a student does need an incomplete, review those policies and discuss with the student when an incomplete is appropriate or not.

We have completed the search for the Ombuds Office. We interviewed all candidates that met the criteria and selected our top candidate. We are now setting up training for January/February. The official announcement will not be made until training is complete.

There have been a couple of discussions with Toni Lefton and her office about developing honors degrees on campus and how it might be piloted. We will invite Toni to a Senate meeting in January to talk about her vision for it and how piloting might work. This will be a great opportunity for students to explore research.

Open Announcement

Deb Carney

The peer observation program is moving forward. We've identified 3-4 departments for the spring.

Approval of prior meeting minutes

MOTION: Motion to approve by Jamal, seconded by Vaughan. Motion to approve the previous minutes was passed with 1 abstention.

December 2023 Graduation List for Faculty Senate Approval

282 undergraduate students, 303 graduate students, and 68 PhD will be participating in the Fall graduation ceremony.

Initial vote was missed on the agenda, so an e-vote was taken via email. The Senate approved the 2023 graduation list.

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

We broke ground on the EMR building (Energy and Minerals Research) which will house the USGS Geology, Geophysics and Geochemistry Science Center and the Central Energy Resources Science Center. It is a federal building and will probably take a few years to be built and opened. This afternoon, there will be a groundbreaking on the Mines Park renovation process. Quite a few buildings in Mines Park have already been renovated. There are also some buildings that are in bad condition that will need to be torn down and, in its place, we will build apartment-style housing for graduate students and seniors potentially.

Our TRAIL initiative is going to launch as a pilot in the spring. We will have a group of students who will be giving us feedback on what we need to improve before we fully open it up. The Futures course that was piloted this fall has gone very well. The faculty were quite happy with the way it went. That group is going to pilot three new course sections in the spring (carbon, energy, and water). The idea is that if the piloting goes well in the spring, we will have eight sections in the fall, which could be a combination of those three topics or maybe add a fourth topic. That will help accommodate close to half of the incoming class so we should be getting to the point where we are offering this to all incoming students. Lastly, the new CS128 class is going well from feedback we've received from students. The CSM201 course is going to be piloted this spring with a small cohort of students.

- **Comment:** Vibhuti will give us a run-through on TRAIL on December 12th. On the Futures courses, Ali Kerr will come in January to give us an overview of how the courses look and work. We will also have Rob here to talk about the CS128 courses from an instructor's perspective.
- **Question:** There was a call for TA's for CSM201, but if you look online, the courses themselves are not staffed with faculty yet. Is there a plan for staffing?
- **Answer:** There is a coordinator of success to hire and train adjuncts. There are quite a few qualified staff in the behavioral health space on campus, but it will be open to anyone interested in teaching one of those courses. Molly, the Assistant Director for CSM202, said we have filled all instructor positions for the spring, mainly with staff that developed the curriculum. We will be recruiting instructors again for the fall semester at the beginning of the summer. Any faculty or staff can apply to become a CSM202 instructor for the fall.
- **Question:** What is the plan to receive the statistical data on course evaluations? In the past, it has been in the library, but everyone is saying it's online, but it's not.
- **Answer:** Course evaluations are in Tableau, but I'm not sure everyone has access to it since we have limited licenses. We can talk to the library, who probably has access to Tableau, about how reporting course evals.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Registration went very well. We got permission to add eight sections in the Labriola Beck space for spring.

The incomplete policy pushes the process to the students to request an incomplete, mostly because students did not have in writing what was required of them to finish up the work. There's oftentimes a disagreement between the faculty and the student, so creating a form and putting this in writing was beneficial. However, it's always been under the faculty's purview to assign an incomplete, even if the student does not fill out the form. The form is designed to facilitate a conversation between the faculty and the student.

We are in the middle of moving from an on-premise student information system to the Cloud that is going very well. We have 65+ third-party softwares that are integrated into our student information system.

Committee Appointments

Cortney Holles

We found out we did not need a Senate vote for committee updates. The following committee appointments were made:

1. Calendar Committee - 1 faculty member needed (filled by Mansur)
2. Student Media Board – 2 faculty members needed (filled by Allyce Horan and Kim Scott)

Undergraduate Council Updates

Ventzi Karaivanov

The undergraduate council did not have a meeting since our last Faculty Senate meeting. What I have done in the meantime is ensure conversations are happening between departments such as Calculus III and CSCI128 taken in the same semester and the concern of prerequisite stacking.

- **Comment:** We are getting close to curriculum deadlines for Fall 2024. Please reach out to all council members and representatives to remind them of upcoming deadlines. For UG council, new programs are due by December 6th. Program changes are due by January 3rd. New or changes to courses are due by January 31st. For GR council, new programs are due by November 29th. Program changes are due by January 10th. New or changes to courses are due by January 27th.
- **Question:** There have been several new courses being submitted, but I do not see many courses being taken off/deactivated. Are you, as councils, trying to encourage council members and department representatives to look at their course offering and remove courses that are no longer needed?
- **Answer:** The Registrar's Office ran a query looking at all courses that have not been taught over the last 3 years to remove. Only about 6 courses had to be removed. A lot of courses follow the pattern of being taught every other year such as technical electives or summer-only courses. However, about 2-3 years ago, the Registrar did a major cleanup where there were hundreds of courses that were removed, so from now on, our courses should be up to date. The next step may be looking at programs with small numbers.

Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

Except for discussion of the online Data Science program, we have not had many updates. Our meetings have mainly consisted of course/program changes with minimal discussion.

Online Data Science MS

Dough Nychka
Hua Wang

The online Data Science program was proposed over a year ago. There was lots of discussion, but it stalled at the end of the last academic year. The program was brought up again this year but seems to have stalled in graduate council due to lengthy discussion. The discussion did not include anything about the content of the courses specifically, but more about the modality of having a Data Science residential program and online program.

Overview: The Data Science MS program has 10 graduate courses (3 statistics courses, 3 CS courses, 3 graduate electives, and 1 professional development course). We have recently submitted a change to allow the 3-credit course Innov8x to be added as the professional development requirement. Once this change has been approved, the residential and online program will be the same. The 3 statistics courses are only offered online due to a shortage of instructors which has sparked a lengthy discussion with graduate council members. Their perspective is that if this is a residential program, all courses should be offered in person, especially a required course. However, there has been an issue of getting graduate council to vote which has prevented any movement or valuable feedback for this program. We would like to know if there

are any policies in place for how many online courses can be offered in a residential program. We have seen that our online courses are more popular than our in-person courses, which tells us that there is a need to have online programs. Also, we feel the only way to expand the program and keep up with trends in Data Science is to offer an online program.

We sent out a survey to the graduate council members to get feedback on the program change. We will share the results with Doug and Hua before our next meeting on December 6th.

- **Question:** How many students are being affected by the online statistics courses that are required but are only offered online?
- **Answer:** For MATH530, which has about 25 students, only 4-5 students are non-residential students. This affects most of our students.

Possible solutions may be to approve the online program to show that enrollment is high. However, in the meantime, you would still have the current 20 students who are not getting the residential experience they are paying for/expecting. We could also enforce a vote at the next graduate council meeting to receive feedback, take the information to Academic Affairs to assist in hiring more faculty for the residential program, and then re-introduce the online program.

From the GSG perspective, students have been very vocal for at least the last 5 semesters at town hall meetings that they are frustrated that they make a great effort to be residential students but must take online elective courses. Therefore, they already feel there is a lack of options for in-person elective classes. It would be difficult to then make residential students take a required course online. Currently, MATH530 can be taught in person by an adjunct faculty member, however, MATH560 and MATH561 are beyond what we can find for in-person learning. However, these two courses need to be available online for the online certificate programs.

- **Comment:** This may need to be a conversation with the Dean to fund more faculty to have the statistics courses available to students online and in-person. In the meantime, we need to put in the catalog for incoming students that this residential program is hybrid, approve the online program, and then create a path for residential students to complete substitute courses in lieu of the online statistics courses.
- **Comment:** MATH530 could be covered by an adjunct faculty member. MATH560 could be covered by Nathan Lenssen and MATH561 could be covered by a statistics TA.
- **Question:** Are there other programs on campus that have a similar issue?
- **Answer:** We would like to have a broader discussion in the spring about what is going to be our policy on in-person vs. online courses because there will be programs with this similar issue.

Research Council Updates

Mark Eberhart

We have no updates. We have not had a meeting since the last Senate meeting. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 6th.

Discussion and Adjourn

Brandon Dugan

Council representation/processes (11/28)

We would like to discuss (and carry the discussion into January) making changes to the bylaws, specifically program representation on the councils. The bylaws currently have "division" in it, which we do not have anymore. The bylaws also list the library, GSG, and 5 interdisciplinary programs but we currently have 15-18

interdisciplinary programs. This may lead to a broader discussion of, how do these programs get appropriate representation on the councils? It also extends to the certificate programs we have as well. I would like to further discuss what are the criteria for who gets representation on a council? Is it based on the number of students in the program? Would these appointed representatives be voting or non-voting members? How do we ensure that these programs get the right representation that they need? Many of these programs are put under various departments. Is that the best way to represent these programs?

- **Comment:** The interdisciplinary programs are growing, and it is not feasible for each of them to individually get a representative on the councils. Is it best for each of these programs to have a parent department that they can use for representation? Is that asking too much for one person to not only represent their own department but several interdisciplinary programs as well? What about interdisciplinary programs that fall under several departments?
- **Comment:** Could a possible solution be to form a subcommittee from the representatives of the councils and those involved in the interdisciplinary programs to discuss items before they are presented to the councils to ensure there has been appropriate feedback and discussion?
- **Comment:** Instead of a subcommittee, we can also make sure there is a specific procedure written letting programs know they must have discussion prior with appropriate program representatives before an item can go to the councils.
- **Comment:** These ideas may work for most programs but not all. Maybe we can start by pulling data from all the programs and see which ones have natural leaders within departments and have deeper discussion in January about how we might want to address it.

Vibhuti Dave – TRAIL (12/12)

On December 12th, Vibhuti will give an update and overview on TRAIL. Colin will also be here to give us an update on the excused absence policy.

Faculty well-being (12/5?)

Faculty Forum (end of January?)

A few ideas have been brought up for a faculty forum in January/February. One is faculty well-being/enjoyment. Another possible topic is budget linked with online and master's programs and how we can more tactically approach those programs to fix our revenue and expand our revenue flexibility.

Core curriculum updates (January?)

Campus space (TBD)

We have learned there is more than one campus space committee. We would like to discuss what committees exist on campus, how space is used, how space is going to be used, and how that impacts all of us.

Other Discussion

In January, we will get updates from Andrew Moore on ITS and how decisions are made and launched. Senate meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, but we could meet at other times. We will have a meeting next Tuesday (December 5th) for a brainstorming session with just the senators to discuss feedback we are hearing from our colleagues, what things we want to tackle in January through March, and ideas for a broader faculty forum.

Next meeting: December 12, 2023, in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items faculty_senate@mines.edu 1 week prior.

