

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 15 total (7 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

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

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s): Chuck Stone, Nicole Bigley, Paul Martin, John Spear, Nicole Becwar, Walt Copan

Welcome, Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Brandon Dugan

MOTION: The motion to approve the 4/23 meeting minutes was motioned by D. Carney, seconded by P. Kohl. The motion to approve the 4/23 meeting minutes was approved with 9 approved, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

The Rath Awards are tonight, and the continuum is tomorrow night. On Thursday, the brunch for the top graduates from each department is scheduled as well as commencement on Thursday afternoon and Friday. Finals have been going well except for one incident of a dance competition being held in the Green Center while students were taking finals. This caused some upset so this issue will be addressed to prevent external events from occurring during finals week.

- Question: S. Vyas asked about the animals allowed on campus policy correspondence that was sent out. How do we enforce it as a faculty if another faculty is bringing in their pet? Who is the enforcer if other students from other PIs are bringing their pets on campus?
- Answer: R. Holz answered that the mail was a reminder that animals are not allowed in buildings on campus unless they are service animals. The issue is due to health reasons if there are people that are allergic to dogs. There have been some students that have complained because of animals that have been brought into classrooms or hallways/buildings and they are highly allergic. The policy has been in place for some time, but it is difficult to enforce.



- Question: M. Ermila asked if faculty are allowed to give students extra time before or after their scheduled finals time?
- Answer: R. Holz answered that it is up to the faculty. Everyone can take advantage of an extra 15-20 minutes to complete exams. The only issue is if a student has another exam before or after, they do not get to have extra time. R. Holz suggested talking to each class to receive input and ensuring that if you are teaching multiple sections that extra time allowance is consistent.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

P. Myskiw addressed that he has had opposite inquiries regarding finals if faculty can give less time for final exams instead of the full two hours. After looking at the policy, there is nothing stated about how large the final exam needs to be. Do we want to do a 50-minute final? The Registrar schedules final exam in two-hour blocks but there is not a minimum. P. Myskiw posed the question, is this something that we should clarify to faculty or leave it to the faculty to determine the length of the final exam (over or under)?

Regarding the final exam disruption in the Green Center, there are checks in place with Conference Services to make sure event conflicts do not occur. However, this event was scheduled in advance. The Registrar's Office will also be addressing this issue to avoid any further issues. P. Myskiw also reminded that all grades need to be submitted by Monday afternoon so that end-of-term processing can be completed.

Undergraduate Council Updates

Brandon Dugan for
Ventzi Karaivanov

The Undergraduate Council will have their last meeting tomorrow in which they will be approving two small program changes. If approved, the plan is to circulate an electronic vote among the Senators so there are no hanging items for August.

Graduate Council Updates

Soutir Bandyopadhyay

The Graduate Council will have their last meeting tomorrow. There are no curriculum items to vote on. There are a few new items, but for continuity, these will not be addressed until next year's council meeting in August.

Research Council Updates

Mark Eberhart

REI proposals that were awarded have been distributed and rejection letters have been sent out. The Research Council had their last meeting and has been closed out for the year. B. Dugan added that per Mark's recommendation, follow-ups to REI awardees will be implemented. Awardees will submit a summary of what equipment was purchased and what has been done. Additionally, at the request of the deans, there will be tracking of which portfolios are getting awards. These two tracking strategies will help ensure that there is equitable distribution over the time period that the awards have been given.

RTT- Institutional Clearance

Scot Allen/Will Copan

RTT received a question from Lawrence Livermore National Labs asking if Mines wants to pursue an institutional clearance. An institutional security clearance would allow Mines to initiate clearances for faculty who propose restricted research. Eventually, cleared research could be conducted at an off-campus lab or facility, but currently, the thought is to initiate clearance and then send faculty members to DOE National Labs or to a company to participate in meeting and perhaps help shape research programs that might contribute to national security which could result in getting contracts to Mines. So far, RTT has talked



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with several faculty who are engaged in restricted research and other universities and been in an information gathering phase. There is significant interest among the faculty and all universities have shared that they have had a positive experience with growth in their fundamental and classified research. The universities warned that this process takes time so Mines should anticipate a full year for clearance and a break-even point at around 6-8 years. The investment cost would be low (no additional facilities or modification of labs) but there would be a personnel cost to hire various roles to manage this.

W. Copan added that Livermore has interest in Mines because of its unique capabilities such as 3D printing to produce charge directive explosives, work in materials in extreme environments and the ability to do testing, and nuclear materials and forensics. There are already existing faculty contacts and interest that would be a benefit to the Department of Energy, to the institution, and to Livermore. This would not require modification of labs to include a secure communications facility. Any work that would require secure communications could be done at the Federal Center. Additionally, it may not be necessary to store any classified materials at Mines. Those could all be done at separate facilities such as research partners at Livermore. There would be a cost involved with establishing clearance for individual faculty members, but they would be approved/sponsored by the Department of Energy.

- **Comment:** M. Eberhart added that an added benefit of institutional clearance is having opportunities to have conversations about possible programs and being able to serve on various review panels through the DOE which all require clearance. This would open a broad number of opportunities for faculty to get seen and noticed even if they are not conducting a specific type of research.
- **Comment:** W. Copan added that it is a relationship expander and builds access to other parts of federal funding opportunities as well as opens recruiting opportunities especially for graduate students. There have been instances where the institution has lost opportunities because certain research projects had to be turned down due to lack of clearance. Also, a high proportion of Mines graduates go on to work at the Federal Laboratory Complex so this would further extend those relationships.
- **Comment:** B. Dugan added that it would be great if the Senate could receive a summary that includes more about the process of institutional clearance and what other universities have shared especially what their perceptions were across their campuses and communities so that feedback can be shared. W. Copan responded that S. Allen is currently working on a draft summary. Some universities have asked not to be identified but this will help discern if this is a good fit for Mines and review any negatives.

Signature Student Experience Update

Brandon Dugan

The Signature Student Experience subcommittee reviewed 13 proposals. The subcommittee consisted of A. Herring, J. Briggs, B. Dugan, L. Guido, T. Lefton, A. Sacco, and J. Shaffer. After some investigation, it was found that there was enough money to fund 6 instead of 4 proposals. There will be a campus email distributed this week about the 6 proposals. They include the following:

- *Signature Pathway for Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research through Vertically Integrated Projects for Experiential Research*, Jack Bringardner, Lakshmi Krishna, Eric Toberer
- *Engineering Innovations from the Classroom to Reality*, Justin Shaffer, Vibhuti Dave
- *Mine's FUTURES Encounter*, Ali Kerr



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- *Capstone Design: Development of Learning Modules and Activities to Embed Engineering Standard Capstone Design Curriculum and Project*, Kristy Csavina, Alina Handorean, Kristoph Kinzli
- *Expansion of the Bladesmithing Course*, Gerald Bourne
- *A Tech Apprenticeship Model for Graduate Engineering Education*

If this goes well, there may be an opportunity to do a second round of proposals. There are a few things that can be done differently if given the opportunity. As with the REI proposals, there will be more accountability than in the past. At MINES-a-palooza, all six recipients will present a poster with a summary of what they are doing. Also, at the end of the year, the Senate will get a report on what was accomplished during the year which will be shared to the Board of Governors.

New Senators for AY24-25

Cortney Holles

The six new senators for AY2024-2025 are Piret Pink-Bjorklund, Nicole Becwar, John Spear, Chuck Stone, Paul Martin, and Jeff Holley.

Senate President for AY24-25

Brandon Dugan

B. Dugan shared they he is nominating to serve as Faculty Senate President for a second year.

MOTION: The motion to nominate B. Dugan for a second-year term as Faculty Senate President was moved by J. Rostami and seconded by N. Wu.

The Senate discussed sending out communication to all full professors on campus for nominations and then the Senate can vote if there are additional candidates. If not, B. Dugan will serve as President for the AY24-25.

Adjourn

Brandon Dugan

Next meeting: August 27, 2024, in the Guggenheim Boardroom. Please send agenda items faculty_senate@mines.edu 1 week prior.

