

Colorado School of Mines – UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 May 8, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 15 total (10 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Ventzi Karaivanov (chair)	P	Andrew Pederson (EB)	P	Mike Nicholas (AMS)	P	Chuck Stone (PH)
P	Michael Barankin (CBE)	P	Jay Straker (HASS)	P	Gerald Bourne (MME)	P	Rennie Kaunda (MN)
P	Dylan Domaille (CH)	P	Ge Jin (GP)	P	Zibo Wang (CS)	P	Mathias Burisch Hassel (GE)
P	Linda Battalora (PE)	P	Hongyan Liu (CEE)	P	Jeff Wheeler (ME)		Mark Bowen (USG)
	Jack Bringardner (EDS)	P	Brianna Buljung (LB)		Hisham Sager (EE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)		Dixie Cirillo (PA)		Kristeen Serracino (AA)		Paul Myskiw (RO)
	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)	P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)	P	Deb Jordan (Trefny Center)	P	D. Scott Heath (RO)
P	Katie Ludwin (CASA)	P	Danielle Boileau (CASA)		Cheryl Medford (GE)		Colin Terry (SL)

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Ventzi Karaivanov

Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2024

Ventzi Karaivanov

MOTION: Motion to approve previous minutes was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by H. Lui. The previous minutes were approved with 13 approved, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

Briefings and Information Items

Registrar’s Office

D. Scott Heath for
Paul Myskiw

D. Scott Heath reminded the council that grades are due on Monday. Please encourage fellow faculty members to get grades submitted as soon as possible as there are students taking summer classes that need to know if/what they need to take.

- **Question:** M. Barankin asked in prior years, students could not see their grades until they were all published all at once on the Wednesday of the week. However, recently, students have received grades as soon as they are entered. When did that change?
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered that he was not sure when that changed. It could have been in the past year. There is a switch in Banner that allows grades to be displayed on the web. However, students tend to always find a way to find their grades as there are so many different places they can look to get that information. The Registrar’s Office tries to not roll the grades into the academic history until the Thursday or Friday of finals.
- **Question:** V. Karaivanov asked for clarification on the various places that students can find their grade.
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered that in addition to Trailhead students can run an unofficial transcript and potentially see grades there. There is also a student grades function in their student

profile that they can see grades. Additionally, students can go into their degree audit and see grades.

- **Question:** M. Nicholas asked do we have a count on the incoming class size yet?
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered that the target is 1,550. The current deposits are up over 1,650. There is another week before the deposit deadline so there is hope that there is some melt over the summer to get back down to the 1,550 goal.
- **Question:** M. Barankin asked is it common to see any melt over the summer?
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered that yes, there is typically melt over the summer which is why we typically admit more than the target.
- **Question:** C. Stone asked what is the latest time on Monday that faculty can submit grades to the Registrar's Office?
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered the latest time to submit grades on Monday is 4:30 pm.

Curriculum Item(s) for Council Vote

1.1

ENGY		Xerxes Steirer
CIM 3/21		
1 course change:	ENGY419: THE PRINCIPLES OF SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS	
	<p>Overview of the solar resource and components of solar irradiance; principles of photovoltaic devices and photovoltaic system design; photovoltaic electrical energy production and cost analysis of photovoltaic systems relative to fossil fuel alternatives; introduction to concentrated photovoltaic systems and manufacturing methods for wafer-based and thin film photovoltaic panels. 3 hours lecture; 3 semester hours.</p> <p>Offering at least one solar energy course on a continual basis specifically advances Mines@150 Mission, Vision and Strategic Plans. First, today's students demand classes in sustainable energy including solar energy. This course has been offered in the past (formerly PHGN419 - no longer offered, and ENGY498) with high attendance rates and great student feedback. Not offering a solar energy course would be in direct opposition to the M@150 goal of expanding our offerings. Second, the Vision of Mines @150 includes energy in all its forms, from production, manufacturing and use topical areas. The energy from the sun is the most abundant form of energy and its use requires advanced educational offerings for science and engineering students. Third, if Mines is to become top of mind, we must include a diverse set of energy courses, which prepare students to work on the most pressing issues of our time.</p> <p>Creation of this class as ENGY419 is necessary due to its prior offerings in Physics as PHGN419, which has programmatically lost support in the department. This currently unavailable course is referenced in 5 tracks including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BS-DSGN: BS in Design Engineering 2. MIN-PH: Minor in Physics 3. BS-MECH: BS in Mechanical Engineering 	

	<p>4. MIN-ENGY: Minor in Energy 5. BS-CHM: BS in Chemistry</p> <p>ENGY419 will create continuity for solar energy education and help to grow energy education offerings by providing suitable foundation at Mines. Has already run twice as ENGY498.</p>
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MOTION: Motion to approve the ENGY419 course change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by G. Jin. The ENGY419 course change was approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

1.2

MECH		Jeff Wheeler
CIM 4/3		
2 course changes:	MEGN330: INTRODUCTION TO BIOMECHANICAL ENGINEERING	
	This class is broad and while it touches on topics of the prior pre-reqs, the fundamental knowledge is not required to succeed in this class. These pre-reqs are not necessary for the class in its current form. Removal of these pre-reqs will also make the class more accessible to the majors across campus, particularly for those who may want to pursue the minor in biomechanical engineering.	
	MEGN430: MUSCULOSKELETAL BIOMECHANICS	
	As pre-reqs are being removed for MEGN330, we would like to explicitly add them here. This class will require background in mechanics of materials and dynamics to succeed in applying advanced mechanics concepts to biological tissues.	

MOTION: Motion to approve the MEGN330 course change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by G. Jin. The previous minutes were approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

MOTION: Motion to approve the MEGN430 course change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by G. Jin. The previous minutes were approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

1.3

CBE		Michael Barankin
CIM 3/29		
1 program change:	BS-CHE: BS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	
	Updating elective lists	

MOTION: Motion to approve the BS-CHE program change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by G. Jin. The previous minutes were approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

1.4

QBE		C. Josh Ramey
CIM 3/29		

1 program change:	MIN-BIOL: MINOR IN BIOLOGY
	Changes add possible electives for the Biology minor and delete courses that are no longer offered.

MOTION: Motion to approve the MIN-BIOL program change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by G. Jin. The previous minutes were approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

1.5

PE		Linda Battalora
CIM 4/10		
1 course change:	PEGN350: GEOTHERMAL ENERGY	
	Resurrection of course adjusted to increase enrollment.	

MOTION: Motion to approve the PEGN350 course change was moved by M. Barankin and seconded by L. Battalora. The previous minutes were approved with 14 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

New Curriculum Item(s) for Introduction

EE		Hisham Sager
CIM 4/18		
1 new course:	EENG484: ADVANCED DIGITAL DESIGN	
	To be introduced at the first meeting in Fall 2024.	

Follow up discussion on excused absences

Chuck Stone

In dealing with excused absences, faculty have had the experience of not always getting the official excuses from Athletics or Student Life, particularly in classes that are large. The Physics department has had a few cases where a student claims they have had an excused absence but there was no way to track the communication lines down that justified it. There was no way to authenticate the absence to remain fair and consistent. The suggestion arose if there could be some type of secure website that was set up so that faculty could search for students by name to find if they are excused or not. It would not necessarily need to provide a reason but include when they were excused so that such information could be found quickly to properly give credit to those students that need the excused absence. Is this something that could be led by Undergraduate Council to formalize a proposal to Faculty Senate? Is this something ITS could provide?

- **Comment:** V. Karaivanov added that he introduced this to C. Terry. He could not attend the meeting today but provided the following response: I welcome a meeting with Chuck and any other interested parties. The administration of the excused absence is under the purview of Student Life where the policy is that the faculty is clearly administration. It gives us the opportunity to address any concerns on protocols and administrative changes. I am happy to meet with Chuck and any other interested faculty over the summer or next fall.
- **Comment:** M. Barankin added that this does sound like something that would be best administered by Student Life. Athletics could provide the information at the beginning of the semester (except for playoff schedules) and only have to do it in one place, not to every single professor.

- **Comment:** C. Stone clarified that the request is not to change the excused absence policy but to find a way that faculty can access the information and in a more streamlined manner than email threads.
- **Comment:** A. Pederson suggested integrating this within Canvas, specifically the gradebook in Canvas, to also avoid having to track emails.
- **Comment:** M. Barankin added this may be beyond the scope of what Canvas could provide so may something ITS could provide.
- **Comment:** V. Dave added this could possibly be a project for CS students.

M. Barankin, A. Pederson, and J. Wheeler volunteered to also attend the meeting with Colin and Chuck to discuss this item.

5:00 pm

Adjourn at 4:27

Ventzi Karaivanov



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MINES**