

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 November 26, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Guggenheim 3rd Floor Boardroom/[Zoom](#)

Attendees:

Voting Members: 14 total (8 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Brandon Dugan (Chair)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)	P	Jamal Rostami (MN)	P	Cortney Holles (HASS)
P	John Spear (CEE)	P	Chuck Stone (PH)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)		Piret Plinket-Bjorklund (GGE)
P	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Paul Martin (AMS)	P	Jeff Holley (CEE)		
P	Shubham Vyas (CH)		Cristian Ciobanu (ME)	P	Ning Wu (CBE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Dinesh Mehta (Trustee)	P	Rick Holz (AA)		Paul Myskiw (RO)		Colin Terry (Student Life)
	Sam Spiegel (Online)		Carl Frick (OGS)	P	Jen Gagne (GA)		Nichole Bigley (AA)
	Mikhaila Powers (USG)		Megan Sanders (Trefny)	P	Andy Herring (AA)	P	Karla Perez-Velez (CASA)
	Lauren Guido (GSG)	P	Kathleen Tomon (GSG)	P	Vibhuti Dave (UGS)		Jon Johnson (Online)
P	D. Scott Heath (RO)	P	Kristeen Serracino (AA)		Lori Kester (EMLT)		

Special Guest(s): Wendy Fisher, Andrea Borrego

Welcome, Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Brandon Dugan

K. Volpi has passed along the following updates:

1. Posting faculty salaries online: K. Volpi and her team have investigated how other institutions display this information. They will be moving forward on making this information available online and are working on pulling the data appropriately from Workday.
2. Campus safety and locking classroom doors: A visit will be scheduled for Commander Olson to talk with Faculty Senate about campus safety and what safety measures are in place. This will be scheduled for early Spring.

MOTION: Motion to approve prior meeting minutes was moved by J. Spear and seconded by P. Martin. The motion to approve prior meeting minutes was approved unanimously with 12 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

Faculty and Staff Giving Committee

Ning Wu

The Faculty and Staff Giving Committee is organizing a Trivia Night event on December 13th to raise funds for the student emergency fund. Please forward event information to all departments.

Fall Faculty Forum Update

Brandon Dugan

The 2nd Fall Faculty Forum was held on Friday, 11/22. There were approximately 20-25 in attendance. Similar feedback to the first forum was received. Meeting minutes from both dates will be distributed to all



faculty and an input form will be sent out to share additional feedback and ideas. This will then get drafted into a cohesive document for Senate to discuss and formulate recommendations on ways that faculty can contribute to increase efficiency for teaching.

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

R. Holz reminded the Senate not to give big homework assignments or take-home exams over Thanksgiving break or the Monday after break.

- **Question:** C. Stone asked who will take the lead in posting the salaries?
- **Answer:** B. Dugan answered HR will take the lead.
- **Question:** V. Karaivanov added there have not been any announcements regarding course evaluations. Are we still doing those? Will they be posted or accessed in the library? Is this in the Procedures Manual?
- **Answer:** R. Holz answered some clarification may need to come from Senate since course evaluations should only be seen by the person they are provided for and the DH. There was feedback back in 2019/2020 that evaluation information is not posted publicly. If that is no longer wanted, a new recommendation would need to be made. Student Life can also be asked since students may seek this information on campus instead of using external resources for course evaluations.
- **Comment:** A. Herring added it may be good to make sure that it is not an HLC requirement.
- **Question:** S. Vyas added that typically course evaluation emails go out two weeks before the end of the semester. Which office is responsible for sending those emails out?
- **Answer:** V. Dave added this is under IT who enables the course evaluation feature in Canvas. It might be a bad idea to post the evaluations publicly since faculty might not want others to know how they performed. It's like grade confidentiality.
- **Comment:** C. Stone added maybe USG could help students understand the importance of completing course evaluations and providing constructive feedback for faculty via CSM101, a workshop, or announcement.
- **Comment:** M. Ermila suggested maybe course evaluations can be given at the end of the last lecture. B. Dugan added this may be considered a positive experience as faculty are utilizing class time for evaluations. S. Vyas added could course evaluations be tied to course grades in that grades are not realized until the course evaluation is submitted. B. Dugan added that this could cause students not to provide a true evaluation. B. Dugan added we can talk to Student Life and USG to continue the discussion.
- **Question:** K. Tomon asked has there been a difference in the feedback given at the graduate level compared to the undergraduate level?
- **Answer:** N. Wu answered that there is a difference between graduate and undergraduate feedback. R. Holz added that graduate feedback is typically significantly higher than undergraduate feedback. Within undergraduate feedback, senior students typically give more feedback than underclassmen.
- **Comment:** P. Martin added that peer observation is also available for faculty as an additional resource.

Registrar's Office

D. Scott Heath for
Paul Myskiw



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Registration week went smoothly. There were some changes with timed tickets based on feedback from faculty. If there is any additional feedback from faculty regarding registration, please forward to Registrar's Office. Lastly, a reminder for departments to get grades submitted on time so that the Registrar's Office can complete end of term processes. There is a short turnaround this year because classes begin early in January leaving only two days after Winter break.

- **Question:** C. Stone asked when is the due date for grades?
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath answered grades are due 12/16 at 4:30 pm.
- **Comment:** P. Martin added that the call for common exams for the Spring semester was later than usual. It typically comes out months in advance but was later than normal.
- **Answer:** D. Scott Heath added that he will check on this. The coordinator who usually does this is currently on maternity leave which may be why it was distributed later than normal.

Graduation List Approval

Brandon Dugan

This was done via electronic vote last week and was approved unanimously.

Graduate Council Updates

John Spear

MOTION: Motion to approve the MSPHD-UEEG and XCRTG-UCTE revised program changes was moved by S. Vyas and seconded by J. Rostami. The motion to approve the MSPHD-UEEG and XCRTG-UCTE revised program changes was unanimously approved with 12 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

1.1

CS

Wendy Fisher

[CIM 10/9]

1 new program:

PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE IN
COMPUTER SCIENCE

In Fall 2023, President Johnson and Provost Holz requested that the Computer Science department expedite the development of an online professional master's degree. This degree, along with its associated certificates and similar offerings from other departments—such as Electrical Engineering, Economics and Business, Mathematics, and Mechanical Engineering—aligns with Mines' core objective to increase the number of non-thesis master's students. Our goal is to enroll between 1,500 and 2,000 students across the online master's programs, with profits from these initiatives being reinvested into graduate programs across the institution.

The areas addressed by our online program are highly relevant to professionals in computing or a related field and various disciplines within the local and national industries. This professional master's degree is fully online, allowing students to earn three certificates as they advance through their coursework.

The primary target audience for this online program includes post-graduate professionals, particularly those pursuing a certificate or professional master's degree in computer science, such as recent graduates or mid-career professionals with academic backgrounds in computer science, data science, applied sciences, or related fields. While some students may choose to pursue a single certificate, we propose a flexible pathway for those interested in completing a full master's degree through a stacking model of certificates, complemented by an additional extra elective course. Our curriculum includes several courses focused on key areas such as machine learning, cybersecurity, business and product management, web



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applications, and software technologies. This program offers working professionals a valuable opportunity to deepen their knowledge in computer science while exploring a diverse range of sub-disciplines.

The landscape of computer science (CS) in both industry and academia is rapidly evolving, with a growing demand for professionals who possess advanced technical skills and a deep understanding of computational methodologies. As technology continues to permeate every sector, from healthcare to finance, the need for highly qualified computer scientists has never been greater. However, for many working professionals, the pursuit of a traditional, on-campus master's degree is often impractical due to time constraints, geographical limitations, and financial considerations.

To address these challenges and make post-graduate education more accessible to a broader range of working professionals, we propose the launch of an online professional master's non-thesis program in computer science. This program is designed with flexibility and accessibility at its core, enabling students to balance their education with professional and personal commitments. By offering coursework entirely online, students from across the country—and even globally—can engage with the same high-quality education that the Colorado School of Mines is renowned for, without the need to relocate or put their careers on hold.

Students must have a base-level programming knowledge and the following prerequisite courses or equivalent knowledge:

- CSCI 200: Foundational Programming Concepts & Design
- CSCI 220: Data Structures & Algorithms
- CSCI 358: Discrete Mathematics

Additional training in Linux, GitHub, software engineering, and computer organization is highly recommended and can be acquired through online bootcamps, short courses, and similar programs.

If the applicant lacks this preparation, we recommend the student enroll in our CS@Mines Bridge program. Years of professional experience may be substituted for prerequisite courses.

Graduate Council Approved on 11/20/24

Voting Results – 13 approved, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions

- **Question:** C. Stone asked how does this program differ from the residential CS program?
- **Answer:** R. Holz answered that the online non-thesis master's are now called professional master's. The idea of moving the program online is to target 22-40-year-old working professionals who are seeking to advance their career.
- **Question:** J. Spear asked as part of the initiative to add more programs geared toward working professionals, do we also want more evening programs?
- **Answer:** B. Dugan answered yes, there is a need to be creative for whatever works for the different constituencies but that will also be successful. R. Holz added that this also goes along with one of the efficiencies brought up at the Faculty Forum to have evening residential courses that also have online students Zoom in. It is recommended that more efficient ways to teach be considered as new programs are being set up.



- **Question:** C. Holles asked did rethinking the way we do course scheduling come up at the Faculty Forum?
- **Answer:** R. Holz answered that there have been discussions with the Deans and the Academic Exec team. However, there has been some resistance by some departments, so this is a matter that needs to be continually addressed to find faculty that are willing to teach at different times. B. Dugan added that various models of teaching have been proposed at the forums including evening courses or a hybrid course model.
- **Comment:** J. Spear suggested having professors who work on campus offer an evening extension course on a topic of their own passion. They could be short-term courses and could extend to the community (Golden/Denver). R. Holz added this could help leverage some of Mines' unique facilities.

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[CIM 11/6]

1 program change:

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN
CYBERSECURITY

In response to the growing demand for advanced technical skills, the Computer Science department at Mines has developed this Professional Certificate in Cybersecurity. This certificate aligns with Mines' core objective of expanding post-graduate opportunities for professionals who need flexibility in their education. Designed to cater to recent graduates and mid-career individuals, this online certificate allows professionals to deepen their expertise in critical areas like cybersecurity, without interrupting their careers. By offering flexible, high-quality online education, Mines enables professionals across industries to gain practical, specialized skills in a format that fits their lives, while also supporting the institution's commitment to accessible, impactful graduate education.

Graduate Council Approved on 11/20/24

Voting Results – 13 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

The Professional Master's Degree in Computer Science new program proposal and Professional Certificate in Cybersecurity program change will be voted on in the next Senate meeting.

Adjourn – Regular Meeting

Brandon Dugan

Next meeting: December 10, 2024 on **Zoom only**. Please send agenda items faculty_senate@mines.edu 1 week prior.



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