

Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Teams

Attendees:

Voting Members: 15 total (12 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	John Spear (Chair)	P	Danielle Ostendorf (LB)	P	Andy Osborne (NSE)	P	Uwe Greife (PH)
	Ian Lange (EB)	P	Bettina Voelker (CH)	P	Jaeheon Lee (MN)	P	Pejman Tahmasebi (PE)
P	Jeff Shragge (GP)		Ebru Bozdag (AMS)	P	Adrienne Marshall (HSE)	P	Jim Ranville (GC)
P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)		Adrianne C. Kroepsch (HASS)	P	Ryan Venturelli (GE)		
P	Lori Tunstall (CEE)		Nikki Farnsworth (CBE)	P	Ellie Miller (GSG)		
	Rajavasanth Rajasegar (ME)	P	Yamuna Phal (EE)	P	Kip Findley (MME)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

P	Carl Frick (OGS)		Carolyn Freedman (OGS)	P	Jenny Briggs (OGS)		Roxane Aungst (OGS)
	Wendy Adams (HNRS)	P	D. Scott Heath (RO)	P	Paul Myskiw (RO)	P	Colin Schneider (RO)
P	Sam Spiegel (Mines Online)		Suzanne Beach (Payne)	P	Kristeen Serracino (AA)	P	Robert Braun (AES)
	Jon Johnson (Mines Online)		Peter Concepcion (Grad Admissions)		Luke Contreras (Grad Admissions)		Kelsie Diaz (CS)
P	Cadi Gillette (IGP)		Rachel McDonald (IGP)	P	Monica Kosanovich (AES)		Alison Bodor (ME)

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

John Spear

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Carl Frick/Jenny Briggs

No updates at this time.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

Question: J. Spear asked, how much does the institution spend on software applications?

Answer: P. Myskiw added Mines has several software that the institution spends a substantial amount on.

Question: T. Voelker added there is rumor that students are being deported. Is this true?

Answer: J. Briggs added that there have been three graduate international students that have had their employment terminated from an immigration entity. However, these students are still on campus and are still attending classes.

Question: R. Venturelli asked, were the students randomly selected or from a certain location? After this gets resolved, is this able to be reversed?

Answer: J. Briggs answered there was no information provided to Mines. Students are also not provided with clear reasons.

Question: J. Ranville asked, can a GoFundMe be set up for these students?

Answer: J. Briggs answered that M. Abbey and J. Salazar are good contacts to provide more guidance on what faculty could do to help in this situation.

Comments: L. Tunstall added institutions at large seem to be practicing too much caution on such a

monumental issue. R. Braun added there have been more efforts to combine efforts to fight litigation. A. Marshall added that DEI programs were shut down even after the injunction so reversibility of this is a big concern. It is interesting that faculty have not heard of this. Will there be a larger communication effort to share this update across campus? J. Spear asked, could be brought up to the executive team to provide widespread communication? C. Frick added that he can work with ISS to help provide broader awareness. T. Voelker added, could the faculty help provide resources? J. Briggs added that ISS is providing immigration lawyers and legal specialists as a resource for students. So far, communication has been limited to those affected. A. Marshall added that broadening communication will help provide additional resources. J. Spear added that he can bring these concerns to the next Faculty Senate meeting. P. Myskiw added that updates can be found at <https://www.mines.edu/global/alerts/>.

Graduate Student Government

Ellie Miller

GSG is also brainstorming ways to help support international students and provide resources. GRADS was a huge success. Thanks to all who participated as a judge. The end-of-year BBQ is scheduled for April 25th.

Continued Business

1.1 EE
[CIM 3/3]

Yamuna Phal

1 program deactivation:

CRTG-EE: GRADUATE CERTIFICATES IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

We have 3 new certificates for the EE program that includes an ISS certificate, so this old one needs to be deactivated.

MOTION: The motion to approve the EE program deactivation was moved by J. Spear. The motion to approve the EE program deactivation was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

New Business

2.1 CBE
[CIM 4/8; Provost 4/8]

Nikki Farnsworth

1 new course:

CBEN670 ADVANCED MICROSCOPY FOR RESEARCH

This is a 600-level elective course designed to introduce students to a variety of advanced microscopy techniques and how they can be applied to answer cutting edge research questions through a combination of lectures, literature-based projects, and hands-on microscopy demonstrations. This fills a critical need for additional 600 level electives for CBE graduate students and is widely applicable to students in other departments who either utilize microscopy in their research or who want to learn to incorporate microscopy into their work.

Comment: J. Spear added that this would add significant value to Mines to expand microscopy and utilize equipment on campus. Introducing more students to microscopy techniques in multiple fields would be beneficial. K. Findley added it would be interesting to see the syllabus for this course to see if there is any overlap with other microscopy courses, especially in MME. T. Voelker added the description is very general and doesn't specify what type of microscopy is included in the course. Y. Phal added the

focus will probably be biological but is probably not limited to the physical microscope. The idea of expanding microscopy on campus would be very beneficial.

Question: J. Spear, would the department consider working with Jeff Squire in Physics who is working on 3D multiphoton microscopy in his lab? Are there any prerequisites for this course?

Comment: E. Miller added that graduate students would be interested in taking this course because it is widely applicable with multiple departments.

3:00 pm

Adjourn

John Spear

Next meeting:

May 7, 2:00-3:00 pm GC224/[Zoom](#). Please send all agenda items to John Spear (jspear@mines.edu) or Kristeen Serracino (kristeen.serracino@mines.edu) 1 week in advance.

Consent Agenda The following proposals will not be discussed unless specifically requested by the Council. Please review the following items. With no objections, approval is implied, and items will be processed accordingly.

4.1 **Approval of Previous Minutes – April 2, 2025**

John Spear

Additional Discussion

R. Braun added that AES historically has not had an MSNT program. There is a plan to offer to create this program next year. Connect with K. Serracino to get information on the process of introducing a new program in CIM.

Changes with 400-level courses to count for graduate credit and the switch to cross-listing courses. The language in the policy affects all graduate programs not just combined students. Could clarification be provided for the reasoning about this to only accept 500-level courses for all graduate programs when it is explicitly only for combined students? This is causing significantly more administrative work.

T. Voelker added that the plan was to slowly transition to have no 400-level courses that count towards graduate degrees. T. Barbari focused on the combined program first as it is the most complicated to implement. P. Myskiw added that students are taking well beyond two 500-level courses. For some students, taking 400-level courses in another field could still be approved to count as graduate credit. The spirit behind this was to ensure graduate students were taking graduate level courses. In the past, there were graduate students taking 300-level courses which gave the impression that the curriculum is not rigorous enough.

Question: Is the oversight processes within the program enough to ensure students are taking the appropriate level of courses while earning their degree?

Answer: C. Frick added that 400-level courses can still be approved but the plan is to get rid of this in the immediate future to ensure graduate students are taking mostly 500-level courses. Students who were admitted in previous years are grandfathered in, but this is phasing out quickly. Any student who was admitted in Fall 2025 and after, there will be no 400-level courses allowed for graduate degrees.