

Colorado School of Mines – FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
 September 24, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Guggenheim 3rd Floor Boardroom/[Zoom](#)

Attendees:

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

P	Brandon Dugan (Chair)	P	Nicole Becwar (LB)		Jamal Rostami (MN)	P	Cortney Holles (HASS)
P	John Spear (CEE)	P	Chuck Stone (PH)	P	Ventzi Karaivanov (ME)		Piret Plinket-Bjorklund (GGE)
	Mansur Ermila (PE)	P	Paul Martin (AMS)	P	Jeff Holley (CEE)	P	Ning Wu (CBE)
P	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)		Carl Frick (OGS)		Jen Gagne (GA)		Nichole Bigley (AA)
P	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)
	D. Scott Heath (RO)	P	Kristeen Serracino (AA)	P	Lori Kester		

Special Guest(s): Samantha Temple

Welcome, Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Brandon Dugan

B. Dugan reminded everyone of the upcoming Homecoming events including the new bell installation in front of Guggenheim.

MOTION: The motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was moved by S. Vyas and seconded by P. Martin. The motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

Academic Affairs

Rick Holz

Campus Town Hall scheduled for 9/25 at 11:00 am via Zoom. Please register to attend. It will be recorded and distributed. During the town hall, K. Volpi and P. Johnson will provide information from the Foundation, provide updates on things going on around campus, and provide updates on the Elevate Quantum grant that Mines has received. Global Energy Summit starts on Thursday (9/26) at 3:00 pm in Bunker Auditorium. Blaster’s Bash will be held on Friday (9/27). The bash is expected to have 2,500 in attendance. During the Bash, the new bell in front of Guggenheim will be inaugurated. Saturday (9/28), Mines football game at 1:00 pm. R. Holz and A. Herring have been meeting with various departments to present Entrepreneurship and Innovation. R. Holz encouraged anyone who has not toured Labriola to do so.

- **Question:** V. Karaivanov asked for an update on teaching faculty contracts (discrepancy between the contract and Faculty Handbook). Did new faculty receive the old contract wording?



- **Answer:** R. Holz answered contracts have been sent out that were discussed with the Senate. There is an ongoing discussion regarding removing contracts and only utilizing the annual letters. R. Holz will double-check and confirm an update on any contract issues.
- **Question:** P. Martin asked do faculty get a new contract when promoted?
- **Answer:** R. Holz answered that that is a question currently being discussed and debated in HR and Legal. There is some thought that the letter received after promotion would suffice instead of a new contract.
- **Question:** V. Karaivanov asked about the safety training video which did not include the run/hide/fight model and did not address concerns that students have regarding classroom security. Classrooms have no way of locking the doors from the inside. Additionally, there is glass in the classroom, therefore, nowhere to hide and no furniture to block entrances. V. Karaivanov sent an email to campus police but has not received a response yet.
- **Answer:** R. Holz will check with K. Volpi if there is anything in the works to address this issue. This may be a topic when K. Volpi visits Faculty Senate.
- **Question:** J. Spear asked does Mines have any plans to make salaries publicly available online? There is currently a notebook available in the library, but it does not have names. K. Tomon added this was a discussion in GSG Town Hall last year. The only answer provided was to refer to the library notebook.
- **Answer:** R. Holz will also investigate this and provide an update at the next FS meeting.
- **Comment:** S. Vyas added that historically, the library used to have names with the salary information but they were removed 5-6 years ago. HR or Legal may also be a resource to ask why this is no longer available.

Registrar's Office

Paul Myskiw

The migration to the Cloud for the Student Information System is moving along and will go live at the end of October. With this upgrade, there will be a few user interface differences for faculty. There will not be any loss of functionality but may look different than Banner 8.

GEODE will be going away as it is not Cloud compatible (used by 40% of students). Messages will be sent to students notifying them of the retirement of GEODE. A Banner 9 planning tool will be available in its place. P. Myskiw encouraged all departments to review Spring classroom and final exam assignments as the chief scheduler is currently on maternity leave.

- **Question:** B. Dugan asked since GEODE will be going away in mid-October and registration starts November 11th, when will classes be announced? How will they be navigated?
- **Answer:** P. Myskiw answered that students will be notified of the planning tool change now. The Registrar's Office plans to release the Spring schedule one week earlier than in the past (October 21-25) so there can be additional time and review of schedules and advising. Most students use both GEODE and the self-service Banner module so it is likely that this will not be a lot of change for current students.
- **Question:** K. Tomon asked does the 40% of students who use GEODE include students who interact with GEODE or who specifically use the function to register with the GEODE schedule?
- **Answer:** P. Myskiw answered that predominantly students will build a schedule in GEODE and do the registration transaction inside of Banner. Although there is a 1-click button from GEODE to go to registration directly, students have created a bandwidth issue, and it tends to crash. Mines is one



of the first US clients to move to the Cloud in Banner, so we are engaging with various 3rd party vendors to create cloud-based solutions that interface with the student information system.

- **Question:** C. Holles asked if there are any trainings available for faculty?
- **Answer:** P. Myskiw answered that there are trainings available and in the works. There will be a list of common issues and FAQs used to conduct the training.

Senate Appointments

Cortney Holles

Vacant Senate Seat

No response from nominations from May. C. Holles will reach out to them personally.

P&T Committee, Safety Committee

Safety and Biosafety Committee – what is appropriate for who can join these committees (based on background)?

- **Answer:** J. Spear will discuss with QBE and encourage faculty to join. P. Martin and B. Dugan added to also ask B. O’Kane for possible faculty members who could join as she runs a committee as well.

No additional names were received for the P&T Committee – K. Singha is working with IT to provide a list of full teaching professors. R. Holz added N. Bigley could also provide a report from Workday. No additional names needed for Core Curriculum Committee.

Graduate Council Updates

John Spear

The Graduate Council has had two meetings in which the council approved an EDS online certificate program, Community Sociotechnical Climate Resilience (9 approved, 4 opposed, 2 abstentions). There was discussion around this item about how copyrights work for online material which has been covered in Senate and the Faculty Handbook. Grad Council also had a presentation from Don’t Cancel Class and the council agreed that this was a useful resource. Grad Council also discussed student/advisor agreements. Agreements are not currently mandatory on campus but there are a significant number of graduate students who would like them to ensure both parties are on the same page. Grad Council also discussed that revisiting the document annually would be ideal. Other curriculum items that were approved are EEGN585 (new online course part of the EE Professional Master’s program) and ROBO554 (cross-listed course).

- **Question:** S. Vyas asked what was the strong objection from the four that vote against the new certificate program?
- **Answer:** J. Spear answered it was the topic of online material.
- **Question:** B. Dugan asked about implementation of the new certificate program. The teaching plan is for EDNS501 and EDNS502 to be perpetually funded with adjuncts in the short term. How will they be funded after the short term?
- **Answer:** S. Temple answered that this is something that all IGPs and online programs are facing. If this is successful in the short term, other decisions can be made in the long term.
- **Question:** S. Vyas asked what is the sunset clause for this program?
- **Answer:** S. Temple answered that the standard sunset clause was used for this program – if total enrollment is below 10 students/year on average after 2 years of the program initiation. How many programs have been sunset and have followed this clause?



- **Comment:** R. Holz added that no programs have been sunset, but the new graduate team is examining all programs this year which may result in a number of certificate programs being sunset or re-evaluated.

MOTION: The motion to approve the online certificate program was moved by N. Wu, seconded C. Stone. The motion to approve the online certificate program was approved with 10 approved, 1 opposed, and zero abstentions.

Board of Trustees Meeting Summary

Dinesh Mehta

The BOT met on 9/13. A new student trustee was sworn in. Financial report update – discussion on whether premiums will continue to be covered as there is a 12% increase every year. Faculty/staff may have to contribute to some of their premiums. This change has no set date or timeline, but faculty/staff will have adequate notification of any change. No change will be made this year. There was also discussion on continuation of funds for Workday and easement approvals in Mines Park. There were also various presentations such as the Innovate Quantum Tech Hub. The CSM Foundation provided some reports as the Mines@150 initiative has crossed \$500 million. An Admissions/Enrollment update was provided with mention of largest incoming class this Fall.

- **Question:** J. Spear asked what is the CSM endowment total? N. Wu asked what are the rules/guidelines on how the foundation uses/grows funds? S. Vyas asked how are Foundation funds spread among departments? What departments are doing well? What could we be doing better?
- **Answer:** B. Dugan answered that we may invite someone from the Foundation to give a brief presentation and answer some of these questions.

Senate Ad Hoc Committee(s)

Brandon Dugan

Proposals for Senate Ad Hoc Committee

- Committee that will address specific details (instead of broad overview) for budget inquiries (with K. Volpi). What sort of specific information would the Senate like to have? How would the information be relayed?
- Teaching loads – this committee will define what a full teaching load is? How do we distribute teaching across campus to meet institutional and departmental missions? There will be a faculty discussion/forum held sometime this semester to further address this - what do teaching loads need to look like for success of the institution? What do faculty want teaching to look like? How do we standardize or get consistency across campus? How do we think about adjunct needs versus full-time faculty needs?
 - **Comment:** K. Tomon requested to add graduate student teaching loads and TA responsibilities in this discussion as well
 - **Comment:** S. Vyas requested to add what defines an overload pay or when is it warranted? R. Holz added that overload is difficult to compare across departments. Loads may vary per semester due to course requirements and research activity, but this will be a good opportunity to have a conversation and determine what is fair.
 - **Comment:** The Faculty Handbook lists the following guidelines for teaching assignments per semester:



Total Assignment	Recommended Teaching Component
Teaching Only	12 credit-hours per semester
Teaching and Service	9 credit-hours per semester
Teaching, Scholarship, and Service (no AYC ¹)	6 credit-hours per semester
Teaching, Scholarship, and Service (maximum AYC)	3 credit-hours per semester

- Senate/President’s Office/DEIA – Community, leadership, and belonging. A survey will be sent out soon.

Adjourn – Regular Meeting

Brandon Dugan