

Colorado School of Mines – GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, GC224/[Zoom](#)

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)		Jaeheon Lee (MN)	P	Pejman Tahmasebi (PE)
	Jeff Shragge (GP)	P	Ebru Bozdag (AMS)	P	Adrienne Marshall (HSE)		Jim Ranville (GC)
P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)	P	Adrianne C. Kroepsch (HASS)		Ryan Venturelli (GE)		
P	Lori Tunstall (CEE)		Nikki Farnsworth (CBE)	P	Ellie Miller (GSG)		
P	Rajivasanth 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)	P	Alison Bodor (ME)

Special Guest(s): Jack Bringardner

Welcome

John Spear

The Graduate Council only has one meeting scheduled for March. The next meeting will be held on April 2nd. Due to room availability, the Graduate Council will meet in GC217 (Ted Adams) for the 4/2 meeting. Lastly, J. Spear shared the following article:

Grad School Is in Trouble

Science The latest signal that the future of the university is under threat February 27, 2025 Jennie Bromberg was somehow still exuberant last weekend about her future career in public health. In January, she interviewed for a competitive Ph.D. program in epidemiology at the University of Washington, one of several to which she has applied. “I loved them. It was amazing,” she told me by phone while on a walk with her Australian shepherd.

Read in The Atlantic: <https://apple.news/AhNzELPJoR2GgGDLfBzBK9A>

Briefings and Information Items

Office of Graduate Studies

Carl Frick/Jenny Briggs

Catalog Changes & Compliance

The Registrar and OGS have been dealing with financial aid usage issues. Currently, undergraduate students registering for a graduate level course must complete an instructor request form as well as a second form to direct the credit to count toward their undergraduate or graduate degree. However, students have been ignoring requests to complete these forms and do not request credits to apply to their graduate transcript until right before graduation. This has caused inappropriate use of financial aid (cannot be used for graduate transcript credit). Last year, over 50 students had this issue which caused them to request funding back for the courses they took. This is also tricky to track as over 90% of Mines students take more than two 500-level courses. As a solution, the process has been changed so that graduate level credit will default to the graduate transcript and students must request credit to be

applied to their undergraduate transcript. This will help track combined students that can double count two 500-level courses. This change will require some text changes in the catalog. A future change to discuss is updating the current language in the catalog which puts onus on the departments to manage combined students or any other type of graduate student but, in practice, this language is biased towards thesis-based or PhD students. It might be pertinent to update this wording to include combined students, MSNT students, and IGPs.

- **Question:** T. Voelker asked, if students want to double count courses they have already taken, how will that process work?
- **Answer:** C. Frick answered that this process will work the same as it currently does. The form will slightly change for students to request to enroll in a 500-level course. Instead of instructor approval, it will switch to advisor approval.
- **Comment:** P. Myskiw added that once students receive their bill, they should notice the extra charge for the courses which may prompt them to request credit be applied to their undergraduate transcript and use financial aid.
- **Question:** K. Findley asked, are most scholarships applied only to undergraduate or graduate courses.
- **Answer:** P. Myskiw answered that major scholarships are typically undergraduate or graduate specific. The Mines scholarship is not level specific.
- **Question:** K. Findley asked, will there be additional training for faculty course requests that will be approved by advisors instead of instructors?
- **Answer:** C. Frick answered that he has met with 1-2 representatives from each program to train them on this process.

Another upcoming change is extending the deadline for applying to the combined program until the end of the semester.

- **Question:** T. Voelker asked, has the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) discussed extending the deadline for graduate school decisions (currently April 15th)?
- **Answer:** C. Frick answered that this has not come up in any CGS meetings but is a great idea to bring up.

Registrar's Office
No updates at this time.

Paul Myskiw

Graduate Student Government
Abstract submissions for GRADS are now closed. GSG has 192 graduate students who will present; therefore, more judges are needed (currently only 25 judges have signed up; GSG needs 100). Please encourage colleagues and departments to volunteer. Having a PhD is no longer a requirement to be a GRADS judge. The timing for this event is also very flexible.

- **Question:** J. Spear asked, why has GRADS grown this year in popularity?
- **Answer:** E. Miller answered that GSG has been more intentional with marketing this event and extended who gets to present (pushed for more MSNT projects). Also, more people are coming in from other Colorado universities such as CSU and CU Boulder so there is larger off campus representation this year. Additionally, the deadline to submit abstract was extended this year

and the event will be hosted over three days instead of two.

2:35-2:40 pm **Continued Business**

1.1	EDNS [CIM 2/6] 4 course deactivations:	Jack Bringardner
		INNO544: INNOV8X CREATE DSCI INNO545: INNOV8X STUDIO INNO598A: SPECIAL TOPICS INNO598B: SPECIAL TOPICS

At the provost's request, we are removing the INNO prefix and reinstating the ENDS prefix for Innov8x.

There is an existing EDNS544 course, which is the graduate level version of Innov8x. However, these courses were changed to be under the INNO course prefix. At the request of the Provost to reduce the total number of course prefixes on campus, INNO will be deactivated and the EDNS courses will be used only. There were some issues related to registration of students because these courses were not being overseen by the EDS department. By moving this back to EDS, it accomplishes the Provost's goal of reducing course prefixes and streamlines that review process for these courses in the EDS department committee.

- **Question:** J. Spear asked, are there any changes in teaching or content delivery between the INNO and EDNS courses?
- **Answer:** J. Bringardner answered that they are identical classes. The only difference is in the course prefix.

MOTION: The motion to approve the INNO course deactivations was moved by K. Findley and seconded by A. Kroepsch. The motion to approve the INNO course deactivations was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

2:30-2:35 pm **Curriculum Item(s) for Council Vote**

2.1	CS [CIM 1/29] 1 course change:	Mehmet Belviranli
		CSCI578: BIOINFORMATICS

This course will be offered to graduate students in CS (both graduate and combined programs) and cross-listed with BIOL510 it will be offered to Quantitative Biosciences and Engineering students. With both in-person and online modality versions, it will be accessible to a large number of students who are interested in practical applications of algorithms and machine learning to life sciences. Updated course description and added "Prior experience with introductory programming concepts" as prerequisite. Added summer semester to be offered.

MOTION: The motion to approve the CSCI578 course change was moved by A. Kroepsch and seconded by K. Findley. The motion to approve the CSCI578 course change was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

2.2	ME CIM 2/11 2 course changes:	Rajavasanth Rajasegar
		MEGN510: THEORY OF ELASTICITY

Minor update to course description; added online modality.

MEGN579: OPTIMIZATION MODELS IN MANUFACTURING

Minor update to course description; added online modality.

MEGN510 is offered every spring and enrollment has been continuously increasing since Spring 2023 (Spring 2023 – 15 students; Spring 2024 – 20 students; Spring 2025 – 25 students). MEGN579 has also seen an increase in enrollment (Spring 2024 – 5 students; Spring 2025 – 17 students). These courses have already been offered online so the Council will be approving the minor updates to the course description only.

MOTION: The motion to approve the MEGN510 and MEGN579 course changes was moved by E. Miller and seconded by A. Kroepsch. The motion to approve the MEGN510 and MEGN579 course changes was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

2:40-3:00 pm **New Business**

3.1

HASS

Adrienne Kroepsch

[CIM 2/25; Provost 2/25]

1 new course:

HASS578: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Solving problems in Earth, Energy, and Environment is at the core of Mines' mission. This course directly addresses the above by guiding students in a critical examination of contemporary global environmental issues and problem-solving approaches with an emphasis on social, political, and cultural systems. The course is geared toward MS-NT students in the Natural Resources & Energy Policy graduate program but is a relevant elective for graduate students in many programs. Piloted in Fall 2024 and developed from a course previously taught at the University of Alberta.

1 program change:

MS-NREP-NT: MSNT IN ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES & ENERGY POLICY

Adding "Environment" to the name of the Natural Resources & Energy Policy MS-NT program to align with Mines' expertise in Earth, Energy, and Environment and appeal to a broader student demographic. Adding policy-relevant courses developed since this MS program was launched to expand student choice. Updating core and electives courses to make degree progression more coherent and aligned with alumni job trends in (1) enviro/resource policy and management, (2) enviro consulting, (3) energy/climate consulting, (4) energy development.

The MS program has been around approximately six years so enough data has been collected from student feedback and alumni to fine tune some program details to make the program more marketable and gives students more options. The new course proposal is the graduate version of an undergraduate course that is already offered. Students have been requesting a course that more explicitly engages in climate change so this topic will be included in the new Global Environmental Issues course.

- **Question:** J. Spear asked, will HASS478 be offered as a joint course with HASS578?
- **Answer:** A. Kroepsch answered no, HASS578 will be graduate students only and will not be joined with HASS478.
- **Question:** K. Findley asked, how many students are in the program?

- **Answer:** A. Kroepsch answered about 10 students per year. This program has not done any marketing so part of the refresh of the curriculum is to also do more targeted marketing (more in-state marketing and more marketing to current students).
- **Question:** A. Marshall asked, is it possible to add a master's thesis degree in this program?
- **Answer:** A. Kroepsch answered that it is a goal to get to that point, but it is not the right time yet.
- **Question:** J. Spear asked, could this program offer evening courses or market students from CU Law or DU Law to increase enrollment?
- **Answer:** A. Kroepsch answered that these are great ideas.
- **Question:** J. Briggs asked, are there any non-traditional working professional students in the program?
- **Answer:** A. Kroepsch answered that there are, but not many. Every year, about 1-2 mid-career students enroll. The program is geared toward both early career and mid-career students but does not get very many mid-career students.
- **Comment:** J. Spear added that this program could also be marketed to USGS employees or EPA Region 8, which is based in Denver.

3:00 pm

Adjourn

John Spear

Next meeting:

April 2, 2:00-3:00 pm GC217/[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 – February 19, 2025**

John Spear

4.2 **EE**
[CIM 2/20]

Yamuna Phal

1 course change:

EENG582: HIGH VOLTAGE (HVDC) SYSTEMS

Course title change from High Voltage AC and DC Power Transmission to High Voltage (HVDC) Systems.

4.3 **HASS**
[CIM 2/25]

Adrienne Kroepsch

1 course change:

HASS591: ENERGY TRANSITION: POLITICS & POLICY

Updating course name/description to more explicitly engage the energy transition, a key area of focus for Mines and students in the NREP program.