

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**  
**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
February 10, 2009 - 2:30pm  
Hill Hall Room 300

**ATTENDEES:** Davis, Drewes, Ganesh, Hitzman, Jesudason, Martins, McKinnon, Petr, Steele, Voorhees

**APOLOGIES:** Collins, Dorgan, Sacks

**GUESTS:** Kevin Duffy – President, ASCSM (and several other students)

McKinnon, Senate President, called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:**

- A. Duffy and several other students discussed the proposed implementation of a plus/minus grading system at the undergraduate level (See Old Business, Section A)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Several copies of previous minutes need to be approved. These minutes have been marked on the blackboard site for the Senators to review.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Plus/minus Grading System – The Undergraduate Council has worked for some time to create a plus/minus grading system to be implemented for undergraduates. The Senate was prepared to approve this proposal at the November meeting, but many undergraduate students attended the meeting and expressed their displeasure at not feeling as though they were properly informed or consulted regarding this major policy change. Therefore, the proposal was tabled and an ad-hoc committee was formed consisting of students, the registrar, and faculty members to resolve the issue. A system will likely be put into place soon, but compromises ensuring that the policy is grandfathered in and the possibility of including an A+ grade are still being discussed. (The original arguments can be found in the minutes of the November 25, 2008 meeting and the January 27, 2009 meeting)

Duffy expressed that students' main concerns were that they arrived on campus with certain expectations and that many students care deeply about their GPA and that a sudden and important change in policy is unfair. Students are also concerned that the change will result in an overall decrease in GPA, especially for those students striving for a 4.0 GPA.

The ad-hoc committee found that there is little common ground between faculty members and students. An attempt to grandfather in the new rule by class level was found to be impossible by the registrar. This method is only achievable if faculty implement it themselves, but they cannot be forced to do so. The most viable method of grandfathering in the policy change would be to do it at all class levels at once in four years. This anticipated change in policy would go into all bulletins issued starting next semester.

The Senate held a quick straw-vote and found that this policy is the most popular to the Senators by a vote of 8 to 1 to 1, with one vote each for phasing in the new policy by year and one vote to not implement the plus/minus system at all.

Regarding the possibility of incorporating a grade of A+, students were asked to submit an argument for such a policy and to include real data from other institutions. The Senate will officially vote on this issue at the next meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. The next Senate meeting will tentatively take place on February 24, 2009 in Hill Hall room 300.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.