

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**October 23, 2007 – 2:00 PM**  
**Hill Hall Room 300**

**ATTENDEES:** Andersen, Dagdelen, Davis, Eberhart, Figueroa, Ganesh, Jesudason, Mishra, Vincent, and Wu

**APOLOGIES:** Martins, Mooney, and Petr

**GUESTS:** Dan Baker - Representative, GSA Tom Boyd - Dean, Graduate Studies, Ryan Ford - Representative, ASCSM, Brad Herrick -Professor, Chemistry & Geochemistry, Lara Medley - Registrar, CSM, Arthur Sacks - Associate Vice President, Academic and Faculty Affairs

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

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:**

- A. Arthur Sacks – Sacks updated the Senate on searches for new faculty appointments. There are currently 37 searches being conducted for new lecturers and tenured professors and there are 6 new appointments that will start this year. He also informed the Senate that the University Committees are being created very late this year. Many committees are meeting for the first time next month and will update the Senate of their progress then.
- B. Arthur Sacks – Sacks reported that faculty have recently commented on the lack of timely information about academic misconduct and related matters, have expressed concern about light punishments emanating from the current process, and voiced the perception that their views are sometimes undervalued in the existing process. A specific case has prompted special concern recently.
- C. All other guests – No new business to report.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Minutes from the September 25, 2007 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved pending two minor corrections involving a title and a name.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Mishra informed the Senate that the new evaluation forms have been approved by the Senate and by the committee. The forms will be implemented next semester. There was discussion on how to handle the three new open-ended questions on the forms. By law if this information is made available to department heads then it must be kept in the faculty member's personnel file. Therefore, it was decided to keep the information, but not make it available to department heads. There is still a question about whether or not this will be more costly than the current process. It is estimated that \$33,000 should be saved each semester due to using standardized forms, but there may be hidden costs in the new system. If it is more expensive, then the open-ended questions may be dropped.
- B. Mishra submitted the Senate proposal to confer the metal diploma following commencement for two months. ([Attachment A](#)) It was decided to implement the delay of reception of metal diplomas for both graduate students as well as undergraduates.
- C. Senate endorsed the current practice of membership to its councils and committees. Specifically, the departments and divisions are free to choose their representatives and may elect their DHDD, if they so desire.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. The Faculty Forum on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 will be an open question and answer session with President Scoggins.
- B. Mishra informed the Senate that President Scoggins wishes to facilitate the strategic planning calibration. He is planning on working with department heads to get two people. Three others will be chosen by the Senate with the following 3 or 4 chosen by the president. The Senate has already stated that Eberhart, Kent Voorhees, and Bill Navidi are good candidates.

- C. For the P&T committee the Senate has three nominations. So far Bruce Honeyman, Kadri Dagdelen, and Kent Vorhees have been nominated. Eberhart asked that Carl Mitcham also be nominated.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Mishra reported that President Scoggins has requested a format change for commencement ceremonies. The president feels that the May commencement is too long and that having the graduate commencement during the undergraduate commencement is of little interest to the undergraduate students and their families. Therefore, Scoggins proposes that two commencements should be held with the Masters and PhD ceremony held later in the afternoon. It would still be a formal commencement, but undergraduate students and their families would not be required to attend. The Senate is hesitant to approve this format, but agrees that the ceremony needs to be shortened in some manner and that the issue needs to be further investigated.
- B. Mishra informed the Senate that Scoggins has announced a Hiring Approvals Committee, and that by July 13 he hopes to have a provost appointed. Dagdelen wants to ensure that representatives from the natural science disciplines be involved. Mishra will relay the concern to Scoggins.
- C. John Poate will be invited to speak at November's Faculty Forum to answer questions about the Research Cabinet. Specifically he will be asked to address why the cabinet was formed, their role, and how indirect cost returns will be handled.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Senate Committees  
 1. Committee on Committees – Andersen submitted the following report.

**Committee-on-Committees Report Patricia Andersen October 24, 2007**

Promotion and Tenure Committee has one vacancy and EVPAA office needs 3-5 names of qualified academic faculty.

Senate needs to appoint a senate representative to the Assessment Committee.

<b>Senate reps to Committees</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Gerard P. Martins	Graduate Council and Undergraduate Student Affairs
Graham Davis	Faculty Handbook Committee
Kadri Dagdelen	Calendar Committee
Mahadevan Ganesh	Readmissions Committee
David Wu	Faculty Oversight and Sports & Athletics Committees
Linda Figueroa	
Mark Eberhart	Research Council
Patricia Andersen	Committee on Committees
Tyrone Vincent	Academic Standards and Faculty Affairs Committee
James V. Jesudason	Undergraduate Council
Michael Mooney	Budget Committee
Vilem Petr	
REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED	Assessment Committee
Michael Mooney	Budget Committee
Vilem Petr	
<b>REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED</b>	Assessment Committee

### Senate Liaisons to Departments not Represented on the Senate

Senator	Department
David Wu	Athletics
Tyrone Vincent	Environmental Science and Engineering
Michael Mooney	Geophysics
David Wu	Petroleum Engineering
Graham Davis	Physics
Liaison Needed	Geology and Geological Engineering

Representatives to the Senate Committees  
 Scholastic Awards – No Senate rep required  
 PERA faculty rep – Pam Blome  
 Colorado Faculty Advisory Council (CFAC) – Craig Simmons  
 Athletics rep – Ric Wendlandt  
 Promotion & Tenure Committee – No Senate rep required  
 Technology Fee Committee – No Senate rep required  
 Sustainability Committee – No Senate rep required

Andersen then reported that the Assessment Committee still requires at least one Senate representative. Figueroa volunteered to join the Assessment Committee. Vincent will be the liaison for Geology and Geological Engineering.

2. Sports and Athletics – Wu had no new business to report.
3. Executive Committee of the Senate – Mishra  
The activities of the Executive Committee have been covered as Informational Items.
4. Academic Standards & Faculty Affairs Committee – Vincent had no new business to report.

#### B. Senate Councils

1. Research Council – Eberhart had no new business to report.
2. Undergraduate Council – Jesudason had no new business to report.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

## ATTACHMENT A

### Senate Proposal to Confer the Metal Diplomas following Commencement

In light of the change to the new Honors degree, and following discussions with student and faculty, the Senate finds it compelling to alter the past system of providing metal certificates during commencement. A generic but attractive paper certificate will be given out for ceremonial purposes during commencement, followed by mailing out the traditional metal certificate about 2 months after Commencement. We are requesting that the new policy come into effect during the May Commencement, 2008.

#### Rationale:

##### **Academic Integrity and Accuracy**

**Graduation awards (Summa, Magna, Cum Laude) would be accurately recognized on the metal diploma if metals were not pre-printed.** Right now there is only one threshold – high honors. When a student goes above or below this threshold due to grades for his/her final term, the metal diploma is incorrect. The student is responsible to order a new diploma at \$150 if he/she wants it to be correct. There is an incentive not to request a lower achievement certificate. With the new honors system, there will be 3 thresholds – not just one – where the metal diplomas can now be incorrect. *Having the transcript and the diploma show two different honors is not good practice for any institution of higher*

*education.*

**All official grades could be checked**, not just the lowest possible grades, thus verifying the final, accurate outcome for each student before issuing the metal diploma. This is an important distinction (lowest possible –v– final grades), as we have some faculty members each semester who attempt to change a lowest possible grade from a D to an F after the diplomas have been handed out. Some have a hard time understanding why this grade change back to an F is not possible. The student has officially been given a D, and now the faculty member cannot change it back to an F based on the student's work. This is not a good situation, as the student really does deserve the grade earned (F), but the process does not allow a change of grade.

### **Administrative Streamlining (Registrar's Perspective)**

**We could reduce confusion around the final grading process by removing the lowest possible grading process entirely.** The Registrar routinely gets questions such as: How do I enter lowest possible grades if I haven't even given the final yet? Which students do I need to turn grades in for? Why isn't Sally Jones on my list on the web when she says she is graduating? What is the Tuesday deadline for if there is also a Thursday deadline? Aren't grades due on Monday after graduation?

**The rush to give final exams and grade the exams for this group of students would be non-existent.** Faculty members with seniors taking exams on Wednesday or Thursday will have until the following Monday to give the final grade, rather than being rushed to present a lowest possible grade by Thursday at 5:00 pm.

**The only deadline would be the final/official grade deadline** on the Monday after commencement, thereby allowing more time for each faculty member to evaluate each student's work and assign a grade on the web.

**The Registrar's Office would have additional time** to ensure that each student completed all requirements and that the honors are correct based on new g.p.a.s.

**Reducing the number of silver diplomas printed, paid for, and not distributed because a student did not complete all requirements when expected.** We have approximately 115 silver/nickel diplomas in our office that CSM paid for and cannot be used for this reason. At the very minimal cost of \$75 per diploma, these diplomas represent over \$8,000 in wasted funds.

**Final exams could be scheduled into Thursday afternoon**, somewhat relieving the current time/space challenges.

### **Lowering Student Anxiety:**

**There would not be difficulties in the Registrar's Office after the ceremony** arising from upset students who did not receive metal diplomas, and have to wait until holds are released or grades are submitted in order for them to be given the metal diploma. Invariably, their parents, grandparents, and siblings come with them, and all are unhappy. This is a situation that would be wise to avoid.

**Eliminating the need to call students on Thursday night to tell them their diploma will not be in the cover.**

This is not a pleasant process for the Registrar's staff or for the student. Frantic calls to the professor about the grade – whether it is for a failed course or a grade not yet turned in – could be completely avoided. This would be a real service enhancement for students – and not getting the call they all dread on Thursday night.

**There would be no difference in how students are treated at the ceremony.** A student now would not be upset or embarrassed over not receiving his or her silver diploma when other students did.

### **Concerns:**

**Receiving the silver diploma at the commencement ceremony has become a CSM tradition**, and there is always a feeling of loss when a nice ritual is removed, even for compelling reasons.

**The cost of sending out the diplomas would be a new cost.** Each certificate would have to be sent with a tracking option and a signature requirement. There is also the additional cost of special padded mailing envelopes.

The approximate cost to mail each diploma would be \$2.36.

In conclusion, we see many advantages in implementing the new proposal and believe that the negatives are few. Mailing out the metal certificates has become even more necessary with the new Honors system. Students who would normally appreciate having the metal certificates during commencement indeed feel strongly that certificates should accurately reflect the degree that they have earned on campus.