

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 23, 2012 - 2:00pm
Hill Hall 300

ATTENDEES: Bach, Bialecki, Carr, Knauss, Monecke, Osgood, Reimanis, Sulzbach, Van Tyne, Williams, Zhang,

GUESTS: Lara Medley (Registrar), Alyssa Brown (Undergraduate Student Government)

APOLOGIES: Gardner, Spear

Guest Updates:

None.

Undergraduate Council:

No updates.

Graduate Council:

Council has not met for the past 3 weeks.

Research Council:

Council now has a full membership. There are 9 subcommittees with each council member serving on at least one. Current Council bylaws are outdated. The Senate may want to work on updating them. The Graduate Council is only discussed in the Senate bylaws. Carr spoke with Parker and he felt the Senate was the appropriate place to address this.

At the previous meeting, Carr and Hitzman were tasked with soliciting ideas on how to improve ORA. He got back 10 pages of comments. Joe Trubacz pulled in for input. There was some contention regarding presenting these comments to the Research Council. There was a positive presentation designed, but administration objected to releasing. There was a big discussion of the right of faculty to provide feedback. Carr is asking for the Senate's input. This was initiated by a request for Research Council members to approach their departments for opinions on what is and isn't working in ORA. Research Strategic Initiative Council is now under discussion, but has no representative from the Senate. It may be completely administrative, without faculty representation. There will be an email going out every week regarding the colloquia, which will also be posted online. The Council's next meeting will focus on undergraduate research.

Faculty Oversight of Athletics:

There was a survey of student athletes done last year. Overall, results were positive. There were some coaching changes and a new trainer was hired. Travel guidelines are being considered.

President's Cabinet Meeting:

Spear provided notes to Van Tyne from the last week's cabinet meeting:

- Graduate admissions are higher at 392.
- ABET visiting campus next week.
- A search is underway to find new PE and MN Department Heads. Finding qualified candidates has been difficult.

- The Avalanche Center will not be coming to Mines.
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training is ongoing. There has been a fairly low turnout, with only 50% signed up.
- There are 11 employees nominated for Employee of the Year.

Executive Committee of the Senate:

There was discussion regarding the new CASA advising group. Gardner and Van Tyne will meet with Colin Terry regarding when students have to declare their majors. Brown added that students don't have to declare a major until midway through sophomore semester unless they transfer in with a large number of credits. This is a problem for smaller departments. CASA is meeting with individual faculty in the departments. Van Tyne is not sure the faculty as a whole is aware of this new rule. There is concern about a 1 year loss for students. The CASA website says that 4 faculty spend 8 hours a week in CASA meeting with students. These faculty are Todd Ruskell, Courtney Hollis, Sarah Hitt, and Scott Strong. Bach noted that this program has seen positive results. Medley clarified that the wording of the policy has changed, not what's necessarily in the database. Incoming freshmen declare their interest, but not their major. CASA advisors will break from the students in the middle of the sophomore year and this is part of the reason for the timing. The Registrar's Office still registers the student under their major of interest. Medley explained that CASA gives out the interest form, students get this information through orientation. Brown added that students don't seem to be bothered by this change. They are encouraged to put in an interest during CSM 101. Colin Terry should know that the info was not conveyed to faculty. The Registrar's office did some training with the CASA advisors. The advisors are broken up alphabetically, rather than by department/program.

Discussion items:

The Faculty Handbook Committee should now have the full complement of required members. Ray Zhang has been appointed to the committee. Ilya Tsvankin from GP replaced Graham Davis. Deb Carney has replaced Scott Strong.

Parking Advisory Committee:

The Senate volunteered Vaughan Griffiths as a representative to the committee at the last meeting.

Faculty Morale:

Dinesh Mehta contacted Knauss, interested in a faculty satisfaction survey on a yearly basis. Carr commented that there should be a filtering process in place and that the survey should be geared to provide constructive criticism rather than a complaint forum. The Deans might be helpful, because they're a good bridge to the administration. It's possible that Kay Schneider could provide useful input. Brown asked if the faculty would be interested in an open forum format or more of a single reply. The open forum format might not work because of the different generational comfort with technology. It will be important to prepare the administration.

Grading Scales:

There is a concern that CSM does not have a university-wide grading system. The current system is not transparent for students. It was felt that there should be a baseline expectation. Faculty should also be free to construct their grading system as they feel is appropriate. According to the bulletin, +/- grading is available for all Freshmen courses. Further feedback is needed from faculty. Senate members will take the issue back to their departments.

Faculty Trustee appointment:

Van Tyne read the bylaws related to appointment. Banner voting is easily set up for this. 2/3 of eligible faculty must vote, per state statute. Administration is eligible to vote, but did not vote last time. Van Tyne will move forward, but requests that Senate encourage their fellow faculty to vote.

Faculty Handbook:

Senate needs come up with a proposal for how best to address the Teaching Faculty Promotion committee structure/process. The process seems to be *ad hoc* so far. Parker had suggested forming a subcommittee to advise the Handbook Committee, made up of the three Deans and two Teaching Faculty members. Cyndi Ryder was suggested as a subcommittee member. Pat Kohl and Gus Greivel were also recommended. A separate subcommittee for Research Faculty also needs to be formed, but this may be better addressed by Research Council.

Budget Committee:

The steamline from Coors need to be replaced within the next few years. Dorgan indicated we should use this as an opportunity to reduce the CSM carbon footprint and generate energy in a slightly different way. This may be a good senior design project. It was suggested that proposals be solicited from the different departments. NREL may be able to provide some mutual resources.

Carr conveyed that the high-performance computing equipment coming in has cooling needs that CSM is currently unable to meet. Mines will be outsourcing this until the problem can be resolved.

Senate convened executive session.