

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
November 25, 2008 - 2:00 PM Hill Hall Room 300

ATTENDEES: Collins, Ganesh, Hitzman, Jesudason, McKinnon, Sacks,

APOLOGIES: Davis, Dorgan, Figueroa, Martins, Mooney, Petr, Voorhees

GUESTS: Wendy Harrison – Associate Provost, Brandon Leimach – Associate Director of Athletics, Prakash Periasamy – GSA Representative, Tom Spicer – Director of Athletics, Roughly 75 students concerned about the implementation of a “plus minus” grading system for undergraduates

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

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- A. Plus-minus grading system – Roughly 75 students attended the meeting to voice their concerns regarding the decision to implement a “plus-minus” grading system for undergraduate students. Jesudason gave a brief background covering the issue and stated that the change has been in the works for over a year. Furthermore, the undergraduate council passed the resolution unanimously less one voter abstaining. If the Senate passed the resolution the new system would be utilized starting in the fall2009 semester. The new system would align the undergraduate grading system with the graduate system, which currently does implement the plus and minus system. Many faculty members also find the current system to be too broad and doesn't allow for finer gradations in grading. Three students (Kevin Duffy, President ASCSM, Anant Pradhan, Vice President, ASCSM, and Melanie Peddle, representative, Student Athletic Advisory Council) were allowed to give brief speeches outlining some students' concerns. The students' major concerns included feeling ambushed by what they regarded as a sudden decision, not being informed on this major issue, impacts on GPA, impacts on work and free time, that current students shouldn't be forced to abide by the change, selectivity in internships, financial aid, interviews for other schools, and interviews for careers being negatively impacted, the impact on student athletes, and the fact that not all faculty will have to implement the new system. It was decided that there was a problem in communications between students and administration/faculty members and a motion was made and seconded to defer the decision until the next meeting after students can have more time to review the changes. The decision passed unanimously. An ad-hoc committee with McKinnon and Duffy as chairs will meet with several others involved in this change and advise the Senate on how to move forward with this issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Volk Gymnasium – Spicer and Leimach addressed the Senate regarding some faculty members concern over lack of access to facilities offered solely by Volk Gymnasium. Leimach mentioned an email he had sent to all faculty members outlining the hours offered by Volk Gymnasium ([Attachment A](#)). Spicer reported that they do not have the funding necessary to open the facility for any additional hours. Furthermore, faculty members are free to audit any PA course, further extending accessibility. There is also doubt that the facility would see a large increase of use with any extension of hours. No change to the operational hours of Volk Gymnasium will be implemented yet.

- B. Office of the Dean of UG Students – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- C. Course Relief for Senate President and Council Chairs – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- D. Enrollment Caps in Departments and Divisions – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- E. Job Description for Senate Administrative Assistant – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- F. Foundation with Respect to the Economic Downturn -This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Plus/minus Grading Motion – See “Comments from Guests” section A.
- B. Athlete Absenteeism Policy Changes – A specific policy needs to be included in the student and faculty bulletins regarding absenteeism due to athletic events. Harrison will continue to work on a document outlining absences due to athletics as well as illness and family emergencies.
- C. Graduation List – The December 2008 Convocation list was approved unanimously.
- D. Calendar – There have been several requests by faculty members to coordinate the official CSM calendar with that of Jefferson County. The biggest issue reported was synchronizing spring break with Jefferson County. They are currently waiting for more faculty member input before looking at any change.
- E. Parking Garage – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- F. Re-ad Committee – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- G. Faculty Forum on Instruction Methods for Blind Students – The Senate decided that they will not devote a Forum to this topic, but it was noted that the physics department is offering a brief seminar covering this issue.
- H. Parking Committee needs one Additional Faculty Member – It was decided to ask Jim McNeil to join this committee.

GREENING OF MINES:

- A. ACUPCC – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.
- B. Monthly Forum Series – This issue was not discussed due to time constraints.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. No committees had any new business to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. T The next Senate meeting will tentatively take place on December 9, 2008 in Hill Hall room 300.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.

ATTACHMENT A

----- Original Message -----Subject: CSM-Faculty-Announce: Volk Gym / Steinhauer Fieldhouse Facility
UseDate: Thu, 16 Oct 2008 10:29:10 -0600From: Brandon I. Leimbach <Brandon.Leimbach@is.mines.edu>To:
<faculty-announce@mines.edu>, <classified-announce@mines.edu>

CSM Faculty & Staff,

Happy Thursday from the Athletics Department!

With the winter months approaching, our department would like to remind all faculty/staff that both Volk Gymnasium and Steinhauer Fieldhouse are open Monday – Friday for you to incorporate some healthful exercise into your weekly schedule. Also, we still have locker rooms available for our commuters who need to shower Monday – Friday between 6am - 5pm.

We have been monitoring our facility usage patterns for the last couple of months and we have noted that we have some free time slots that we would like to make available to the CSM Professional Community. Specifically, we are going to reserve the Racquetball/Handball courts (use the sign-up sheet across the hall to reserve your time slot) from 6am – 8am and Noon – 1:30pm Monday – Friday for the faculty and staff as well as the jogging track in the Fieldhouse. Additionally, we would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our “NOON BASKETBALL” pick-up games that take place in Volk Gym every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30am – 1:00pm.

Hopefully you can take advantage of the activities mentioned above as the rest of our days are packed with PA Classes and Varsity Team Practices. We look forward to seeing you and please contact me with any questions.

****Brandon Leimbach****

****Colorado**** School**** of Mines****

****Associate Director of Athletics****

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<http://athletics.mines.edu>

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