

# COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 12, 2013 - 2:00pm  
Hill Hall 300

**ATTENDEES:** John Spear (CEE), Joel Bach (ME), Bernard Bialecki (AMS), Tracy Gardner (CBE), Dan Knauss (CH), Thomas Monecke (GE), Candy Sulzbach (CEE), Kim Williams (CH)

**APOLOGIES:** Lincoln Carr (AMS), Ken Osgood (McBride), Ivar Reimanis (MT), Chet Van Tyne (MT), Ray Zhang (CEE)

**GUESTS:** Terry Parker (Provost), Lara Medley (Registrar), Paul Santi (GE), Joe Trubacz (Sr. VPFA), Gary Bowersock (Dir. Facilities Management), Alyssa Brown (Undergraduate Student Association), Mark Taylor (Graduate Student Association)

### **Minutes:**

The minutes from the January 22, 2013 meeting were approved.

### **Guest Updates:**

Parker:

With the anticipated size of the graduating class this year, the commencement ceremony will see a 30-45 minute increase in time if there are no changes made. Mines has a tradition of reading student names, which will be maintained. This year, degrees will not be announced, only colleges. Degrees will be listed in the program. Department Heads will line up with their faculty in the first row and lead students to the stage. Time for reading names will be cut from 8 seconds per name down to around 5 seconds. If the ceremony were to be split into colleges, there is a concern about finding venues. Conversation is still underway.

### **Discussion:**

Graduate Programs in Underground Construction and Tunneling:

The proposal has been approved in Graduate Council by a vote of 8-1. Paul Santi gave background and summarized the proposal: There has been a Center for Underground Construction and Tunneling at CSM for a couple of years. It's a research center established by private donation. It has enough base funding to carry it ongoing and the center is now hiring an endowed chair to direct it. The graduate program is a separate piece. Funding will be supplemented with industry consortia. Michael Mooney is the interim director. A minor program was established about a year ago. The goal with the graduate program is to create a truly interdisciplinary degree. The hope is to offer this degree beginning Fall 2013 and are currently on schedule. The focus of the program is on tunnels, shafts, and caverns for many purposes, including transportation, water conveyance, sewer, etc. Elements include design, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation. This is a quickly growing market and the school has been getting pressure from industry to create the program. There are nine different universities involved in similar programs but, none offer a degree. There are a few in Europe that tend to be short term. The proposed program requires nine additional hours outside of existing degree offerings. This program offers Masters and PhD degrees.

Spear asked if there will be a significant science component, specifically opportunities for Geobiologists, Geophysicists, Geologists, etc. to get access to the subsurface. Could students get a science-based PhD rather than just an engineering-based degree? The availability of things like access would be outside of this program.

A list of the current courses can be found in the proposal. No new courses are being requested. There are two or three courses listed at the 400 level that the program wants to cross list at the 500 level. There are seven required courses at 21 hours. Entrants in the program would need an EG degree with a strong background in one of the other three fields. Program includes two Masters degrees; one is a thesis and the other is non-thesis. The non-thesis focuses on an internship-based project. The thesis version does not because of hour requirements. A new administrator was hired at half-time who started yesterday. Long term goals for students in the program are two to three entering PhD students per year, five to ten Masters students, and fifteen to twenty undergrads. There are six to ten minors currently. P.I.s will solicit grants from NSF, DOT, DOD, etc. to help fund into the program. Senate members feel it is important to have some gauge for success of the program and a plan to address any obstacles.

*The Senate voted in favor of approving the program.*

#### **UGA Representative Update:**

Brown gave background about the grade posting issue raised at the last Senate meeting. This was started by a student on Facebook and has seen a lot of traffic on the "What's Your Beef?" page. The Sophomore class student government has taken on the project. Essentially, students want a policy or resolution that would require faculty/TAs to get grades back to the students (either handed out or posted to Blackboard) within two weeks of due dates or tests date. Grade posting effects how much time they need to allocate for study.

There was a question as to how much is of this concern is a management problem and how much is a grading/time problem. This could also be a result of class size. A proposal was written, but not approved by student government. The proposal is being edited. After approval at the student government level, the proposal will come to the Senate, then taken to the President. Senate advised that the proposal should have clear, specific statements as to what students want to see done, and what happens if this is not accomplished. It was unclear whether or not students want their grades only, or their assignment returned and grades posted. Requiring both is not reasonable. More flexibility is better.

Senate members asked if there exists a policy on campus regarding the load of Teaching Assistants, or ratio of TAs to students per class. Bialecki said that CECS has a metric for grader/student ratios.

One proposal from the students was to hire more work study students to help with grading.

Senate will discuss the edited proposal when it is presented.

#### **Sabbatical Benefits Policy:**

Currently, the policy is that, after a certain amount of time served, faculty are entitled to 1 semester of sabbatical. Salary and benefits are compensated during sabbatical. If requesting a year sabbatical, faculty must find funding to cover the additional semester. This funding would pay for salary and benefits. This issue has come to the Senate because a CSM faculty member took a year sabbatical and the school charged this person's research or development account for the benefits for the other

semester. Sabbatical language can be found in §10.2.III.G of the Faculty Handbook and clearly states, "Compensation for faculty on sabbatical shall be provided on the following basis: (1) 50% of the academic year base salary plus 100% of the employer-provided benefits for a one-year sabbatical; (2) 100% of the academic year base salary plus 100% of the employer-provided benefits for a one-year sabbatical." There is no language in the Procedures Manual covering sabbaticals.

There may be a broader issue about how to address concerns with the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook Committee only handles changes to the handbook language. Regardless of the language in the handbook, a faculty member was charged for benefits during the second sabbatical semester. Faculty should have legal recourse. Likewise, the Handbook specifies that faculty are to be evaluated, but does not specify what faculty should do if they wish to respond to an evaluation, or are never given an evaluation.

Spear will speak with Handbook representative Zhang. Senate will discuss at the next meeting.

**BELS Transition Committee:**

The committee consists of 6 or 7 individuals, including Lara Medley and chaired by John Spear. A white paper was drafted and the committee plans to present it this week. The plan is to dissolve BELS and propose 4 minors in 4 departments. It will need to be passed by Undergrad Council before it comes to the Senate.

**Faculty Handbook Committee:**

No updates.

**Board of Trustees Meeting:**

The Senate will meet with the BOT on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12pm-1:30pm. The executive committee will come up with a presentation and bring it to the next Senate meeting. The President's executive team will be present at this meeting.

**Faculty Forum:**

There will be a Faculty Forum on February 27<sup>th</sup> focused on retention. Spear will send an announcement to campus. Admissions, Junko Munakata-Marr, and Gardner will be presenting.

**CSM Web Presence:**

Carr appointed 2 people from Research Council – Alan Salinger (CH) and another to be on the committee looking at CSM's web presence. Lara Medley is also on the committee and gave an update: First meeting was mainly preliminary discussion. The President's two main focus areas for this project are branding and consistency, and reorganization. Last revision of the website was done 5 years ago. There may be a marketing firm involved at some point. It is not likely to be completed this semester, but maybe next academic year.

**Memos from Senate to Administration:**

At the last meeting, the subject of salaries was raised with regard to the reported budget surplus. Senate needs to formulate a process for commenting to the administration about this and other issues.

**Senate Web Page News Updates:**

Jen P. suggested adding a news update page on the Senate website as a way to distribute information to the faculty at large. Senate discussed how to decide what content on the news page should be. One suggestion was to post the agendas. The CSM app is another option. PR has started a newsletter, which might be a good place to announce the new Senate news area. Spear and Jen will work on details.

**Parking:**

Parking fees have essentially doubled on campus. This was not openly discussed in the budget. Commuter buses from the new light rail will begin in April and stop at Mines Park and Guggenheim. Taylor reported that the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Governments have been requesting the budget for parking for nearly two years and have never received it.

Trubacz and Bowersock joined the meeting to aid discussion. Parking is now its own auxiliary under Facilities Management. Over the next few months, construction will begin on the new dorm, dining facility, and welcome center. This will eliminate over 120 parking spaces. In the summer, parking will be expanded in the Ford Street area. This will add an additional 205 paved and 245 unimproved spaces. Parking Services is taking out a loan from the school to cover the new construction. The cost is \$1.2 million, plus \$150k for the alumni center. There will be 4 year payback term on the loan at \$400k/year. To cover these costs, finance looked at raising all parking by \$100, or doubling the cost of parking for all spaces. There was a policy change that eliminated the option for those at Mines Park to get a permit for the main campus. Freshmen parking will be limited to 200, done with a lottery system. 460 freshmen this year have permits. Budget is considering including parking with cost of new buildings in the future, but this has not been the case in the past.

There was a transportation study done with the city and RTD, but usage results are difficult to project. Preliminary schedule from RTD shows busses will run on a 30 minute interval from the light rail station to campus, with two busses running during peak hours. Future schedules will hinge on ridership. An Ecopass option was posed to the Mines population in the past, but met with little interest. Trubacz supports the Ecopass idea.

It was asked if there are auxiliaries on campus that run surplus. Housing and dining do, but will be spending funds on the new facilities.

Raising parking costs may cause an issue with productivity on campus. Faculty may seek to decrease their time on campus on days they do not teach. This is already a problem on other campuses. Also, salaries have not increased to offset the cost of parking, etc. There was a concern that the parking increase was announced without warning or input. Faculty may essentially see the parking fee increase as a decrease in pay. This will affect morale.

State funding has been cut and will not cover capital investments for the future. Surplus funds are being reserved for unexpected expenses. There is extra funding in the budget because of unfilled faculty lines. Auxiliary services maintain a fund balance for themselves, which is not mixed with other campus funds. All revenue stays within the auxiliary.

New faculty will bring new staff and graduate students. Increase in research will also bring more people to campus. Campus will also see pressure with parking on event days. Even if enrollment stays at the same number of students, more parking will still be needed.

Faculty feel that the announcement regarding the increase in parking fees was poorly presented and delivered. Some feel that their concerns are not being heard. Communication needs to be improved. Bowersock requested suggestions for more effective communication. Email and forums are historically ineffective. Finance and Administration is considering a quarterly forum, beginning in April.

Campus master plan has spaces for buildings, but there is no timeline associated with it. Parking decisions are made through input from advisory groups, the Executive Committee, and proposals to the President. The President makes the final decisions.

**CEER:**

The Conference on Earth and Energy Research will take place February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There has been a good judge turnout. There are about 73 judges and 115 presenters. Off campus participation increased. They are hoping to have good attendance for speakers.

**Undergraduate Council:**

Double degrees rule passed Undergraduate Council and need to be voted on by the Senate. Council is now considering minors. A minor currently requires 18 hours of coursework with only 3 in their major department. The reorganization has caused difficulty with this. The proposed rule would require an 18 hour minor, 9 of which must not be double counted.

Senate will vote on the double degree proposal at the next meeting.