

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

**March 19, 2013 - 2:00pm
GRL Conference Room**

ATTENDEES: John Spear (CEE), Joel Bach (ME), Bernard Bialecki (AMS), Lincoln Carr (PH), Tracy Gardner (CBE), Dan Knauss (CH), Ken Osgood (McBride), Ivar Reimanis (MT), Candy Sulzbach (CEE), Kim Williams (CH), Ray Zhang (CEE)

APOLOGIES: Thomas Monecke (GE), Chet Van Tyne (MT)

GUESTS: Lara Medley (Registrar), Tom Boyd (Office of Graduate Studies), Judy Schoonmaker (CBE)

Minutes:

The minutes from February 26, 2013 were approved unanimously.

Guests:

No updates

Discussion:

BELS Evolution:

Senators received a copy of the BELS Transition Committee report that was sent to the administration. Parker replied with a memo in favor of the committee's recommendations. There was no clear implementation outlined in his memo. Undergrad Council reviewed the issue last week. At the last Senate meeting, it was agreed that the proposal is on a fast track. Undergraduate Council was asked to consider two issues and vote on them. One was the Fundamentals of Biology I course itself, the second was to replace BELS 101 as a distributed science requirement. The 1st one passed unanimously. The second passed with one abstention. The main concern was having time for feedback from departments. Another concern was that more courses are considering going to the studio mode, which may require more contact hours.

Carr asked if there exists data similar to what has been collected for Studio Physics. Schoonmaker has taken an inventory of the Pilot class. No other universities are pairing Studio Biology with a wet lab. The transition committee suggested a one year rollout, to consider time for infrastructure to be developed. Historically, construction has not been on time in other areas of campus. UG council had asked if the systems component will be maintained. This will be addressed by the new course in three ways. The first is a thread to discuss the applications of biology to engineering. The second is through lab-based interactions exploring algae as a source of biofuels. The third looks at biology and biological organisms as systems in themselves. It was suggested that the course involve physics and other departments as well. This involves making contact with faculty.

Medley reminded the Senate that the Studio Biology course is already approved and that the only issue before Senate is replacing BELS 101 as a Distributed Science course with the new Studio Biology course.

Williams added that the American Society for Cell Biology Life Science Education published an article on the assessment of the effectiveness of the studio format in introductory biology. It was published in 2006 about Kansas State.

The course description includes a layout of what a week of the course looks like. This was taken to departments. This brought forward a question regarding the number of credit hours. Studio Physics is 4.5 credits. This would be an increase in course hours for the biology course. Students would need to find half a credit somewhere. 3 lab hours is standard across the state. Gardner passed out a calculation of the appropriate credits. Studio biology should be at 4.0.

Carr suggested that the studio biology course could create a flood of bio-oriented students and asked if the department would be prepared to have student numbers double or triple. There are currently 1,000 undergrads interested, 400 already minoring in BELS. There is a need to link it to senior design. The implemented 1 credit hour intro to undergraduate research course will be accepted as credit toward bio related minors. This allows undergrads to see what research is going on at CSM. Perhaps a suite of intro courses could help keep 18 credit hour minors.

Biology II is not one of the distributed science requirements. BELS 101 was rushed through because it was an ABET requirement. The Associate Provost at the time approved it. Knauss asked how the replacement will affect the distributed science choices across campus.

There will be 63 students per section. There is space for these students. The first time around, there will be 5 sections; three of which are 2 hours, 3 times per week, and two of which are 3 hours, 2 times per week. It won't necessarily always be offered in that exact arrangement, but that's what it is for Fall 2013. Assuming a full load in Fall, there will be 315 students. Biology has had 400 students, routinely, for the last three years. 5 TA lines are affiliated with this course. The plan is to have 1 grad student and 4 undergrad TAs for each section.

Senate will vote on the replacement next week.

Posthumous Degrees:

Materials were sent to the Senate from John Humphrey. A PhD student passed away in 2009. Her family inquired about a posthumous degree at the time. The student's advisor has left Mines. The family made contact again 3 weeks ago. There may be past Senate history of this issue, though there is no record in the minutes. Senate should consider how posthumous degrees should be addressed across campus, in addition to this particular case. There are two separate issues: degrees awarded posthumously vs. a posthumous degree. There is language in undergrad and grad bulletins, but no action was taken on this case.

Spear suggested Senate issue letter of apology to the family. It should be signed by the Senate President and Department Heads. Recent communication to the family said that Senate had reviewed the degree and denied it.

Senate voted unanimously to award the posthumous degree.

Boyd will approach the family for contact info. This will be a Silver diploma to be given out at the May commencement ceremony. The student needs to be added to the program. The family should be allowed to accept the degree in her place.

Board of Trustees Meeting:

The BOT/Senate lunch will be this Friday from 12-1:30pm in the Student Center, Ballroom D. The last meeting was 2 years ago. Gardner gave a presentation last time. This time, Senate has 20 minutes to present. Spear will give the presentation. Some ideas for Friday's presentation are: update on retention and FACTIR, parking, transit (RTD), diversity, and communication. Spear will send the PowerPoint to the Senate. It is important to phrase the communication piece correctly, presented from both faculty and administrative sides. Additional ideas were: planning for growth, impact on class sizes, student satisfaction, challenges for faculty, etc. This meeting should be about faculty issues, not campus issues. Several senators suggested leaving the parking issue off of the agenda. Also, to add a positive item that offers an opportunity to engage. Some touch points for the diversity discussion: New York Times story about the best lower income students not applying to the better schools, great talent can be found on multiple economic levels, the percentage of women in Physics is increasing, and that there is a large barrier for members of one gender to go into a field dominated by the other.

Survey Monkey Results:

There were 31 responses to the survey sent out by Spear to the faculty. Spear compiled the results into one document. Overall, comments were positive. Carr cautioned that the document may need to go through the executive council before being widely distributed.

CSM Web Presence:

There is a committee out of Research Council that is looking at this. Alan Sellinger and Fred Sarazin are on the committee. No updates yet.

Sabbatical Benefits Policies:

Senate previously discussed the discrepancy between language in the Faculty Handbook and the current practice. It is felt that the administration needs to address this issue, rather than being resolved by the Senate. Knauss has prepared language for a memo to the administration. The memo addresses the proposed move of section 12 (committees) out of the Faculty Handbook. The handbook is an important part of faculty responsibilities. Removing this section affects the function, membership, and operation of the committees. The Senate is not in favor of moving this section. Knauss will pass the memo to Spear and the Senate will vote next week.

News Page:

Content for the news page on the Senate website has not yet been determined.

Updates:**Undergraduate Council:**

No updates.

Graduate Council:

No updates.

Research Council:

At the last meeting, Carr reported on the Strategic Initiatives Council. Nigel Middleton is working with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan. Mines wants to grow relationship with the school. This is a different arrangement than the one with have with the Petroleum Institute. There was discussion of

faculty exchanges, with Mines accepting 14 visitors from Nazarbayev in the near future. There is also an opportunity for Mines faculty to go there. There was also discussion of porous media on campus. Although there is expertise in campus, there is no common discussion, department, or national presence. The thought is to bring our resources together. Bob Kee presented on porous media at the last Research Council sponsored lecture. John Poate wants to focus on this issue. Ramona Graves at the last meeting presented her vision for the college. The Colorado Geological survey is moving in, under her college. Carr will pass around her presentation. Mines intends to offer a Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award. This is currently going through the colleges. It would be funding for research, not a scholarship. Awardees would do research on campus with a faculty member.

FACTIR Committee:

The committee is working on revised white paper summarizing its accomplishments to date. Colin Terry has compiled results regarding retention. One thought to improve retention is adding a short essay to the application process. The writing across the curriculum issue has been moved to Kay Schneider's office. This issue has pedagogy implications. Studio courses could be an ideal venue.

Faculty Distinguished Lecturer:

Jim McNeil will lecture in Metals Hall on March 27th at 4:00 pm, with refreshments at 3:45 pm. Senate should plan to attend, to show support. Spear will send an announcement to campus.

Research Award and Teaching Award Nominations:

Voting will take place on Thursday. The deadline is April 1st.

Strategic Planning:

There is no new info. Senate has not been contacted. This is something to add to the BOT lunch. "We look forward to participating in the strategic planning. And as faculty, here are some of the core challenges we see as we embark on the strategic planning process."

Senate convened executive session.