

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

May 14, 2013 - 2:00pm
Hill Hall 300

ATTENDEES: Bernard Bialecki (AMS), Lincoln Carr (PH), Tracy Gardner (CBE), Uwe Greife (PH), Ivar Reimanis (MT), Dan Knauss (CH), Ken Osgood (LAIS/McBride), Kim Williams (CH), Ray Zhang (CEE)

APOLOGIES: John Spear (CEE), Joel Bach (ME), Thomas Monecke (GE), Candy Sulzbach (CEE), Chet Van Tyne (MT)

GUESTS: Tom Boyd (Graduate Studies), Laura Medley (Registrar), David Lee (CCIT), Jane Maurer (CCIT)

Guest Updates:

Boyd updated the Senate on the Strategic Planning initiative. Parker sent an email last week. There are 3 teams working on strategic planning. One team is looking at input from sessions and creating a mission, values, and vision statement. Another will put together a summary of goals and strategies. The third is focusing on streamlining operations. These groups are coming up with straw men and raw data to send on to campus for revisions. This should be out sometime next month. The teams include 3 faculty members, one on each. Two of them are Dendy Sloan and John Spear. It was suggested by Senate that this information be conveyed through multiple channels. Having junior faculty engaged would also be advisable.

Graduate Class Issue:

Graduate Council met for the last time two weeks ago. One item needs Senate approval. It is a program change for Nuclear Engineering; an addition to the core list of electives. The addition is a new course in Radio Chemistry (599). It is not controversial in the NE department. NE currently has four elective choices.

Senate approved unanimously.

Course Evaluations:

The current course evaluation system has been in place for a while. Manual processing of these evaluations is laborious. Blackboard now has the ability to perform electronic evaluations. Physics has been very involved in education research. They have several types of surveys and it may be appropriate to consider the evaluation system more broadly. Student reps came to the Senate, requesting more frequent evaluation. Students will be more likely to take surveys if they don't take class time. One concern is how to encourage meaningful comments. It would be possible to get students to take surveys in class with cell phones, etc. One of Senate's past concerns was that not all classrooms had computers. This is no longer a problem. AA and CCIT would like to do a pilot study, maybe in Summer II. Senate was not in favor of launching in the fall. Maurer presented a sample of the electronic survey through Blackboard. It mimics the current paper format. Senate will add to the agenda to discuss in fall.

CSM Minor Degrees:

Undergrad Council approved the ad hoc committee's proposal. Neither the ad hoc committee's proposal nor the Registrar's proposal require additional credit hours. The Deans' proposal was eliminated and not discussed in Undergraduate Council. The essential difference between the ad hoc and the Registrar's proposals is how tech electives are used. Registrar proposes that, "At least 9 of the 18 hours required for the minor must be new credits solely used for the minor, and not used for any part of the degree other than the 9 hours of Free Electives embedded in each program."

Medley stated the Registrar's reasons for the proposal: national standardization, consistency across colleges and departments, definition of "complimentary to or separate from the major," there is no standard to determine why some minors are easy to complete and which are difficult, removes subjective arguments, allows the Registrar's office an objective measure to approve or reject minors, it doesn't require additional hours toward the degree, allows 9 hours to be double counted, consistency with undergrad and grad limiting number of hours counted toward degrees. Graduate Council ruled that only half of one degree's courses can be counted toward another degree. Implementing the ad hoc committee's proposal would force the Registrar to go to undergrad council for each minor approval.

Different departments handle minors in different ways. Knauss supports the use of free electives, but does not support counting tech electives. All 18 credits should come from outside the major. Carr pointed out that one solution is a uniform requirement, the other solution will only work if Senate undertakes a review of every single minor.

Gardner feels that the "body of knowledge" proposal is simple in that if students take the set courses, they get the minor, unless their department has additional restrictions. Possibly 3 or 4 cases would have additional restrictions. The ad hoc committee's proposal was meant to be a baseline starting point, not intended to force the Registrar to decide what "sufficient distinction" is. Exceptions would be well-defined, not on a case-by-case basis.

It was asked if there are any financial implications to the proposals. There are not.

~~That was why the Deans' proposal wasn't accepted.~~

Senate feels that it is the faculty's job to control curriculum. The Registrar's advice makes sense, but it may be inappropriate for the proposal to come through administration. Lara clarified that she is seeking guidance from the faculty. The college reorganization prompted the issue. Decisions made now will take effect in fall 2013 and the Bulletin is currently being finalized.

Senate was unsure why the Registrar's proposal was voted down in the Undergraduate Council. It wishes to respect the efforts that council put into deliberation. Council felt that the ad hoc proposal addressed the issues adequately. Both proposals will address the problem, but the one that passed Undergraduate Council will require Council and the Faculty Senate to discuss-review each minor to ensure that there is sufficient distinction between the minor and major. ~~Osgood feels that it will create additional turmoil in terms of campus politics.~~

It was suggested that what constitutes a "body of knowledge" has to be defined by faculty, not by a formula. The courses that make up a minor have already been determined. Senate would have to look at each minor vs. program and determine distinction across 13 majors. Greife feels that the ad hoc solution gives the biggest leeway to departments.

Carr motioned to uphold the Undergraduate Council's efforts and undertake a review of the resulting problem cases arising from the new colleges and redistribution of departments. Osgood seconded the motion.

Gardner read emails from Van Tyne and Spear, indicating their positions on the issue. Van Tyne feels Senate should support the ad hoc committee's decision and that voting should be held off if Senate decides to support the Registrar's proposal. Spear agrees, but wishes for a vote at today's meeting. Williams likes the Registrar's proposal, but is not comfortable voting on Carr's motion at this time. Knauss objects that if "body of knowledge" is prescribed in the degree program, it is not a minor. The ad hoc proposal will require a lot of discussion on each minor. 9 credits is not much and waters down the requirements.

Senate voted on approval of the ad hoc committee's proposal - 3 in favor, 4 opposed. Motion failed to pass.

Carr made an additional motion to pass the Registrar's proposal, with the removal of "18 hours." Knauss seconded the motion. Senate voted 5 in favor, 2 abstentions, 0 opposed.

2013-14 Senate President:

Former Senate members were excused.

Tina Gianquitto, who was previously voted in to the Senate, cannot attend Senate meetings. She will be replaced by Kamini Singha. *Senate approved the replacement unanimously.*

Senate needs to elect a new Senate President, asking for volunteers. Carr recommends that the position be filled with a full professor. Osgood and Knauss agree. Knauss will be on sabbatical in Spring. Carr was nominated. He agreed to serve with support from Senators.

Carr approved by unanimous vote.

CSM Committee Service for 2013-14:

Greife appointed as Senate rep to Research Council and Budget Committee.

Bach appointed as Senate rep to the Academic Assessment Committee.

Zhang appointed as Senate rep to the Faculty Handbook Committee.

Bialecki appointed as Senate rep to the Calendar Committee.

Williams appointed Academic Standards and Faculty Affairs Committee Chair.

Bach appointed to the Committee on Committees, after summer.

Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics.

Knauss appointed to Graduate Council for fall.

Kamini appointed to Undergraduate Council.

Pankovich and Monecke nominated for Readmissions Committee. Van Tyne will contact for willingness to serve.

Williams, Knauss, and Osgood appointed to the Senate Executive Committee.

Bialecki appointed to the Faculty Oversight Committee on Sports and Athletics.

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program:

Carr and Tony Dean, through discussions with faculty, created a proposal for an undergraduate research fellowship program, to be run through Research Council. Academic Affairs has agreed to fund in-state students. Fellowship is for up to two semesters, 25 per semester. Research Council will review the applications. Fellowships are merit based. Every department should have one student accepted, guaranteed. Students will work 12 hours per week.

Students can't earn credit and get paid at the same time. Knauss supports extending research into summer. Research Council discovered that about 1/3 of students do work during the year without credit. Academic Affairs will now start tracking undergrad research. Council wants to expand the program to out-of-state students. This has not yet been approved by Research Council.

Meeting adjourned.