

**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**February 17, 2004 - 2:00 PM**  
**Hill Hall Room 300**

**ATTENDEES:** Christiansen, Dean, Eberhart, Honeyman, Harrison, Kee, Mehta, Ross, Santi, and Thiry

**APOLOGIES:** Mitcham (on sabbatical until 3/04), Voorhees and Wolden (on sabbatical spring semester 2004)

**VISITORS:** Nigel Middleton – Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Arthur Sacks – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Mike Dougherty – Director Human Resources, Eileen Poeter – Professor Geology and Geological Engineering, Dan Lewis - Athletic Department Observer and Ronnie Hoffman – CSM Graduate Student Association Representative

Harrison called the meeting to order.

**COMMENTS FROM GUESTS**

A. VPAA Middleton

1. Strategic Plan draft document has been circulated. It will probably be presented to the Board of Trustees this spring for their approval.
2. CSM is continuing their negotiations with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) for exemption of all our non-engineering programs (Economics and Business, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, and Chemistry) from the legislation that requires all baccalaureate degree programs to be 120 credit hours.
3. The Faculty Handbook Committee has finished their work on sections 4 and 5 regarding appointments. It will be sent to the Senate for review at the March 2, 2004 Senate meeting.
4. President Trefny has directed VPAA Middleton to design a framework for graduate student contracts that addresses the tax liabilities and confusion that exists with the current contracts. CSM will engage the services of a tax attorney through the State Attorney General's Office.

B. Mike Dougherty

1. Faculty do not accrue vacation leave but they do accrue sick leave. To use sick leave, a faculty must report it.
2. Fringe rates are calculated on a pool concept of all expenditures and all costs, and therefore, cannot look at an individual situation.

C. Eileen Poeter gave the Senate an update on the Budget Committee activities.

1. Dan Montez stays abreast of the legislation that might affect higher education and passes that information on to the committee.
2. Between Amendment 23 and the Tabor Amendment, it is estimated that there will be a larger shortfall in the state's budget this coming year. To make up this shortfall, many have suggested that the amount given to higher education be decreased. Thus, any means by which CSM can reduce its reliance on State funding would be beneficial.

3. Classified staff is scheduled to receive a salary increase of approximately 3%.r The School would like to do the same for faculty.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 3, 2004 and February 10, 2004 Faculty Senate meetings were approved.

## REPORTS

- A. Board of Trustees – Harrison presented the following written report to the CSM Board of Trustees:

*TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: Wendy J. Harrison, President, Faculty Senate  
DATE: February 12, 2004  
RE: Faculty Senate Report to the Board*

*Since the last report to the BOT, the Senate has hosted a Faculty Forum on January 28, 2004; held a regular meeting on Tuesday February 3, 2004; and called a special meeting on Tuesday February 9, 2004.*

*The Faculty Forum on January 28, 2004 was attended by more than 100 faculty and staff. Philip Romig Jr., Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Thomas Boyd, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, presented the Strategic Plan for Graduate Studies and Research. Comments from the faculty focused on whether or not a goal of establishing four new \$4 million research centers in the primary mission areas was realistic, possible solutions to the data showing the increased cost of research at CSM relative to other institutions, and the need for further planning which would address department-level graduate programs and research goals.*

*At the regular meeting on February 3, 2004, the Senators engaged in a discussion with VPAA Middleton regarding progress on the Strategic Plan. The Senators were informed that a draft of a strategic plan intended for public release had been received by the Strategic Planning Committee and would be forwarded to the Senate for discussion at the February 20, 2004 meeting. The Senate has resolved to provide comment regarding this strategic plan as well as the internal working document to the administration before the Spring Break. Director of Human Resources, Mike Dougherty also spoke as a guest to the Senate.*

*The Senate convened a special meeting on February 9, 2004 to hear comments from VP Moore, Anne S. Walker, Legal Services, and AVP Romig regarding the IRS audit in progress and the recent reporting of tuition for some graduate students as taxable income for 2003. Senators expressed their concern for the lack of communication on this matter between the administration, and the faculty and graduate students. Significant campus-wide discussion has ensued, much of which has been based on incomplete and incorrect information. The Senators acknowledge the complexity of the situation but are concerned for the financial well-being of their graduate students at this institution. Following a question and answer period the Senate met in executive session.*

- B. Strategic Plan - The Senators agreed to work on the Strategic Plan draft at their March 2, 2004 meeting.
- C. Undergraduate Council - Eberhart reported that the Undergraduate Council is working on a grade appeal process identical to the graduate process that was initiated last year.

This Council would like the Senate to pass a resolution on limiting the class time for all Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes to 50 minutes to better utilize classrooms. Harrison requested the Senators to get feedback from their departments on this issue and report back at the next meeting.

- D. Committee on Committees - Thiry indicated that three senior Senators and a Senate President would need to be elected this year. Candidates should be from departments other than Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

The Committee would like more information on the Bio Safety Committee. If anyone knows anything about this committee, please inform Thiry.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.