

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 20, 2004 – 2:00 PM

Hill Hall Room 300

ATTENDEES: Christiansen, Dean, Eberhart, Harrison, Mehta, Mitcham, Santi, and Thiry

APOLOGIES: Honeyman, Kee, Ross, Voorhees, and Wolden (on sabbatical spring semester 2004)

GUESTS: Nigel Middleton – Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty (VPAA), Dan Lewis – Department of Physical Education and Athletics Observer, and Dick Porter – President Association of Classified Employees

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

A. VPAA Middleton

1. Strategic Plan – The Strategic Planning Committee has clarified terms, changed negative statements to positive ones and has broadened the focus of research to be more than just dollars. It is projected that the Board of Trustees at their meeting on April 23, 2004 will approve the Strategic Plan in principle. This document will serve as a publication to use when approaching potential donors.
2. The subject for the Board of Trustees' Retreat has not been determined. The Senate suggested that research should be the topic.
3. The students are ambivalent to posting their grades on the web.
4. Rick O'Donnell is the new Director of CCHE. O'Donnell's goal is to restore the status of higher education in Colorado.
5. Thanks to the Senate for their wisdom and interaction with the Office of Academic Affairs during the past year.

B. Dick Porter presented an overview of the Classified Employees Association (CEA) that was formed in the fall of 2003. The CEA meets the second Thursday of every month at 8:00 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 6, 2004 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as amended.

REPORTS:

A. Board of Trustees Report – Harrison will present the following report to the BOT on April 23, 2004:

To: CSM Board of Trustees

From: Wendy J. Harrison, President of the Faculty Senate

Date: April 15, 2004

Re: Faculty Senate Comments on the External Plan

The Faculty Senate has been diligent this academic year in trying to facilitate the process of faculty input into the Strategic Plan. We have hosted three Faculty Forums related to the Strategic Plan: by Vice President Moore, Vice President Chevront, and Associate Vice President Romig. The Senate has promoted the active involvement of all faculty in the strategic planning process, has provided faculty with drafts of the Strategic Plan at regular intervals during the academic year, and has given the faculty many opportunities to provide feedback during the process of plan development. In addition, the Faculty Senate has spent considerable time reviewing the version of the Plan designed for external circulation. We summarize these deliberations below:

1. *The Faculty Senate fully supports a vision for CSM that allows the school to:*
 - a. *Become a more distinguished research institution.*
 - b. *Attract, retain, and graduate the brightest students, at all educational levels, in engineering and science.*
 - c. *Attract, retain, and promote the careers of a world-class faculty.*
 - d. *Gain more financial security through an expanded resource base.*

2. *The Faculty Senate has concerns in several areas:*
 - a. *The Strategic Plan is sufficiently ambitious that goals may be unachievable. The goal of becoming a distinguished research institution is not congruent with school policies on graduate tuition, faculty teaching loads, and indirect cost return. Many faculty express concerns about the realization of four major research centers.*
 - b. *The Strategic Plan does not reflect the departmental alignment of CSM, thus individual groups of faculty have disparate views and concerns regarding most aspects of the Plan.*
 - c. *The Strategic Plan should look beyond our traditional strengths in earth, energy, environment, and materials to define and develop emerging technologies, thereby expanding the scope of our science and engineering activities and capturing the imagination of current and future faculty and students.*
 - d. *Growth in the undergraduate student body has been inadequately planned and will initially be accompanied by reduced quality of education, increased faculty workload, and erosion of faculty ability to implement competitive and innovative research programs. Large increases in non-resident enrollment cannot occur without large increases in qualified resident applicants, and we are not convinced that proposals to generate such increases are realistic.*
 - e. *The proposed increases in the undergraduate enrollment and in non-thesis graduate programs are not based upon a reliable and detailed financial model. This is the financial underpinning of the current Strategic Plan, yet the faculty are not reassured that the financial gain will offset the expenditures required to maintain quality or that larger enrollments of undergraduate and non-thesis graduate students will enhance our research capability.*
 - f. *The reduced availability of infrastructures (such as classrooms, offices, dorms, computer capabilities, library building and labs) due to a large and sudden growth in the number of students on campus will negatively impact the quality of life and work for students and faculty, and thus will negatively impact faculty and student recruiting and retention.*

3. *We are concerned that approval of the External Plan by the BOT will be construed as an endorsement of a Strategic Plan for which the action items have not been fully evaluated. We feel that it is important to decouple the approval of the External Plan from approval of specific implementation strategies that are the foundation for the concerns enumerated above. **While the Faculty Senate endorses the Vision and Major Strategies in principle**, full acceptance of the Strategic Plan will require demonstration of administrative leadership and acumen, which will alleviate the undercurrent of concern regarding the External Plan. The Faculty Senate would like demonstrated progress towards addressing our perceived weaknesses of the Strategic Plan during AY 2004/2005, including:*
 - a. *Elucidation of the manner through which the Strategic Plan is to be implemented at the department and division level. This clarification should be sufficient in scope to allow departments and divisions to formulate long-term (5 to 10 years) goals and objectives that will facilitate and complement the Strategic Plan. It should include reduction in faculty teaching loads for those departments and divisions where student enrollment is a burden and projections of the number of tenure/tenure track and non-tenure track faculty anticipated for each department/division five years into the future.*
 - b. *Development of explicit plans to allocate funds arising from the projected increases in undergraduate and non-thesis graduate enrollment to benefit graduate research programs and faculty research productivity.*
 - c. *Articulation of specific plans to assess the quality of CSM's education in the face of increasing student enrollment.*
 - d. *Adjustment of the time-line for the Campus Master Facilities Plan to mitigate the infrastructure problem.*

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Committee of Committees – Thiry **moved** that Flammer (Physics) fulfill the unexpired term of Todd Ruskell to begin July 2004. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was **moved** by Christiansen, seconded by Thiry to change the membership of the Committee on Sports and Athletics from three faculty members appointed by the Senate to four faculty members appointed by the Senate. Motion passed with one abstention.

It was **moved** by Mitcham, seconded by Dean and passed unanimously to change the Faculty Bylaws, Article II, Section E-4, Election Procedures to add after "Vacated seats will remain vacant until the next regularly scheduled election unless the vacancy will exceed three months."

"In the case that the President of the Senate position will be vacated for more than three months, a replacement, who must meet eligibility requirements of the presidency, must be nominated by a majority of the Senate, and approved in a special election by Academic Faculty, conducted by the Committee on Committees."

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Undergraduate May 2004 Commencement List – A **motion** made by Santi, seconded by Eberhart to approve the April 15, 2004 Undergraduate May 2004 Commencement List passed unanimously.
- B. Graduate May 2004 Commencement List – A **motion** made by Dean, seconded by Eberhart to approve the April 12, 2004 Graduate May 2004 Commencement List passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50.