

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 1, 2002, 2002 -2:00 PM
Hill Hall Room 300

ATTENDEES: Dean, Dickerhoof, Eberhart, Frost, Harrison, Illangasekare, Kee, Mitcham, Readey, Ross and Thiry

APOLOGIES: Curtis and Navidi

VISITORS: Nigel Middleton, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Barbara Olds, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Readey recommended that committee reports be given on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. There will be a time limit. It would also be helpful if the reports were written.
- B. All Senate meetings will be in Hill Hall 300. The meetings will have to adjourn promptly at 3:55 pm as this room is reserved for another meeting that begins at 4:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The September 3, 2002 and the September 17, 2002 Faculty Senate minutes were approved.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

A. VPAA NIGEL MIDDLETON:

- 1. Colorado Research Institute (CERI) is mandated by State statutes. The Office of Energy Management and Conservation approved to fund CERI at a level of \$225K per year for two years. A majority of the funding will go to find an interim director.
- 2. Balancing the State's budget will severely affect higher education, which will lose funding in this process. The expected shortfall will be twice the predicted amount since it will have to be absorbed over six months. Academic Affairs and the President's office are discussing how to deal with the predicted cuts. CCHE may make available other sources of money to higher education. An example of another source would be the tobacco settlement monies. A budget cut this year will also carry over into next year's budget. Increasing tuition does not necessarily translate into increased revenue in the sense that tuition and state support does not cover the cost of a student's education.
- 3. Barbara Olds will chair the Undergraduate Council and Nigel Middleton will chair the Faculty Handbook Committee.
- 4. Academic Affairs is working with the department heads/division directors to improve the promotion and tenure schedule.
- 5. The Strategic Planning Committee is screening applicants for the consultant position. A consultant should be announced within two weeks.
- 6. Academic Affairs is leery of the move to unconditionally accept general education credits transfer credits from other institutions. The state's engineering colleges will have agreements that will also address the quality of transfer credit.
- 7. North Central Association will visit CSM October 28 and 29, 2002.
- 8. Petro Skills, a private commercial institution, has a memorandum of understanding with CSM. If approved by the faculty, an individual could receive transfer credit for courses taken at this institution. This could be a source of students for the proposed professional masters degree in Petroleum Reservoir Systems. Continuing Education will be handling these.
- 9. There is draft of an agreement to uniformly transfer credits from other state engineering colleges.

B. Barbara Olds, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. Higher Learning Commission (North Central Accreditation) will be on campus October 28-30. There will be an observer from the US Department of Education evaluating the process that this commission uses. The Senators are invited to a lunch meeting with them on Monday. This organization accredits the institution, where ABET accredits programs. They look at the entire school – student life, physical plant, classified staff and students.

2. Two new committees have been established

- a. Assessment Committee

An ad hoc Assessment Committee has existed at CSM since 1988. The current ad hoc committee recommends that a permanent Assessment Committee be established as a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council. Sound educational practice demands that the School continually review its curricula and their effectiveness. While we have a number of ongoing assessment processes at CSM (e.g., departmental assessments, assessments of individual core courses, surveys of graduating seniors and recruiters), there is a need for a body that can coordinate, synthesize, and disseminate all of these disparate evaluations. Specifically, the ad hoc Assessment Committee recommends that a permanent Assessment Committee be established as a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council.

Function: The Assessment Committee would be charged with ongoing assessment of the core curriculum and distributed core curriculum. In addition it would conduct focused assessments as requested by the Undergraduate Council or the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Such assessments would be done in coordination with appropriate existing campus entities.

Method of Operation: The Committee would meet at least once per semester and would report to the Undergraduate Council and VPAA.

Membership: The Committee would be composed of six to eight members of the CSM community including the Director of the Center for Engineering Education, the Director of Institutional Research, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and three to five faculty members serving rotating three year terms, including at least one from an engineering department/division, one from a science or mathematics department/division, and one from a humanities and social science department/division. Nominations for the faculty positions would come from the Senate to the VPAA who would select the members of the Committee. All Committee members would be expected to have some expertise and experience in assessment.

- b. Core Curriculum Coordinating Committee

At the recent Faculty Conference, CSM faculty members were asked to work in small groups to define what they believed was working well and not so well in the revised curriculum and to make suggestions for further curriculum reforms. The issue mentioned most frequently in the latter category was the need for additional *coordination*, especially among the core courses. Last spring the coordinators of all of the freshman core courses met several times to discuss issues related to the core, meetings they found extremely valuable. They recommended the establishment of a permanent core coordination committee. After studying that recommendation and the clear message from the faculty as a result of the exercise at the Faculty Conference, the Curriculum Committee recommends the establishment of a permanent Core Curriculum Coordinating Committee as a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council, the body designated to make recommendations to the Senate on matters such as "modifications in the 'core' curricula."

The Curriculum Committee recommends the following parameters for the CCCC:

Function. The Committee's function would be to coordinate all of the core courses and to cooperate with the Assessment Committee in evaluating their effectiveness on an ongoing basis.

Method of operation. The group would be charged with meeting at least once per semester and reporting any recommendations to the Undergraduate Council.

Membership. The Core Curriculum Coordinating Committee should be composed of the coordinators of all core courses including Calculus I, II, and III; Physics I and II; Nature and Human Values; Economics; Earth and Environmental Systems; EPICS; Chemistry I and II; Systems I, II, and III; CSM101; PAGN 101 and 102; and the Registrar.

The Senate by-laws will have to be amended to make these permanent sub-committees. The Committee on Committees will reports back to the Senate on how this can be done.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES (Harrison)

- A. The following Senators agreed to be liaison to those department/divisions not represented on Senate:

Athletics -Ross
Economics and Business – Frost
Mining Engineering – Kee
Petroleum Engineering - Dean

- G. Promotion and Tenure Committee nominees – the list of eligible faculty was not accurate. Nevertheless, Senators indicated their preferences on their list and gave them to the President. They charged him to use this information and provide a list of nominees to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Professional Degrees - Mitcham moved that the Senate support the Professional Master's Degree in Petroleum Reservoir Systems. Harrison seconded it. During discussion, the Senators expressed the following concerns about this degree: (1) the requirements for this degree were not very specific although the title of the program is very specific, there were no courses specified for the program; (2) there are already a number of master degrees types offered at CSM; (3) would this degree lessen the value of the traditional master's degree; and (4) with a commercial organization possibly offering courses for the program, how would the quality of the program be assured? Since the hour was getting late and several of the Senators had to leave, Illangasekare moved to table the **motion**. Eberhart seconded. The motion was tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.