

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
 December 9, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members: 24 total (13 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

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|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Yvette Kuiper (Chair) | | Emily Bongiovanni (LB) | | Tzahi Cath (HY) | | Cristian Ciobanu (ME) | | Emmanuel DeMoor (MME) |
| | Mark Deinert (NSE) | | Yilin Fan (PE) | | Randy Haupt (EE) | | Rennie Kaunda (MN) | | Adrienne Kroepsch (HASS) |
| | Thomas Monecke (GE) | | Svitlana Pylpenko (CH) | | Jim Ranville (GC) | | Elizabeth Reddy (EDS) | | Jamal Rostami (UCT) |
| | Mahadevan Ganesh (AMS) | | Jeffrey Shragge (GP) | | James Simmons (MP/SH) | | John Spear (CEE) | | Kenneth Steier (EREP) |
| | Eric Toberer (ML, PY) | | Ning Wu (CBE) | | Hao Zhang (CS) | | Michael Heeley (EB) | | |

Non-Voting Members:

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|--|------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Johanna Eagan (ORA) | | Barb O’Kane (EHS) | | Mara Green (AA) | | | | |
| | Hanzelle Kleeman (USG) | | Moira Miller (GSG) | | | | | | |

Bylaws

Yvette Kuiper

Ranville brings up a question that was asked in a meeting with the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program directors regarding programs that feel they need the representation on both the Graduate and Research councils.

Kuiper mentions that if a no elected member of Research Council is serving on the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer Research Advisory Board, then the Research Council chair will attend the monthly Research Advisory Board meetings. Similarly, programs that do not have a representative on Research Council can send up one member of the program. The risk, in this solution, would be all seventeen programs sending an individual to Research Council.

An option is presented by Cath to nominate individuals from the Interdisciplinary Program Council in order to provide an amount of representation on the Research Council. The Interdisciplinary Graduate Program Council would have to be contacted in order to determine its status and whether they are willing to agree to appoint a representative to serve on the Research Council.

Ranville points out a discussion made in Spring 2020 on the Graduate Council in which there was a possible solution of providing representation from a few industry programs that would pass on information from the Council to the rest of the directors.

Two solutions are presented to Research Council by Kuiper: discuss with the Interdisciplinary Program directors to send representatives or if the program is not already represented then send an individual representative from that program to contact.

Spear states that having one or two represent the entire Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs would be fine as they disseminate information to the directors’ meeting.

Ranville states that these solutions will be brought up at the IGP director's meeting so that the process can move forward.

Kuiper runs an overview of the proposed Research Council bylaw changes: concise wording, programs split between two voting years, and interdisciplinary program language to be added once a solution has been reached regarding representation.

Cath states that there is representation from the undergraduate and graduate student on research council, and there has been talk of promoting representation of postdocs and research professors. There are currently two research faculty on the Council, and postdocs can be added as either voting members or non-voting members.

Kuiper makes note that prior to addition of postdoc representation to the bylaws, there should be a postdoc body on campus. Rostami adds that if the postdocs have an organization of their own, they can nominate someone or send a representative over. The temporary measure would be to have individual departments call on postdocs to apply for the position. This would require an application that goes through Research Council.

It is then added to the proposed changes that postdocs are listed as non-voting members of Research Council, as the Council is primarily for Faculty. The postdoctoral fellow would then be selected from the body of postdocs or application through the Research Council.

Discussion begins on the terminology of research associates, undergraduate and post-undergrad status, and adjuncts in Council.

Kuiper concludes the discussion on the bylaws by stating that the bylaw changes should go through, and figuring out the language around research associates will be an issue to resolve over the next Council meetings.

Each portfolio will nominate a research professor to the Council.

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

Xerxes

Steirer

The subcommittee on Strategic Instrumentation and Space' has brainstormed on space and research instrumentation and identified four groups to focus on:

1. Small equipment funds
2. Improved communications (on existing equipment)
3. Develop strategic MRI
4. Sustainable technical support

The small equipment funds topic addresses a system that provides people on campus with the ability to apply for equipment that is less than \$100,000. This was addressed due to the complexity of submitting an NSF or proposal and the request goal is too large to pull from other grants.

The Council will develop a proposal and means of proposal submission as well as questions on selection criteria, how much money is being asked for and where the money would come from. A crowdfunding link was also provided to Council (<https://research.mines.edu/crowdfunding-login/>)

Improved communication addresses a website that lists research equipment in an excel document; however, it is incomplete and difficult to navigate. Kuiper states that Kinzel has expressed interest in helping improve the site.

Cath brings up that the next Research Council meeting (1/13) should include discussion on service centers and their equipment plans. The service centers would manage duplication of equipment on campus and efficiency.

Some faculty are managing equipment alone and not recovering funding to maintain the equipment they are managing.

Strategic MRI touches on the issue with faculty not having enough support and being unable to keep a lab running. Kuiper mentions that there has been discussion of support staff to help these labs.

Sustainable technical support is the final topic of discussion that will cost money in order to attain. Kuiper states that there are two types of lab maintenance issues: one is people to run the equipment and that have the equipment expertise and second is general maintenance, for example electricians.

Electricians that are hired under Mines are trained and eventually leave the position due to the constraints of being a classified employee, and hiring an electrician from outside of the university means being charged a disproportional amount.

Kuiper suggests that there does needs to be funding set aside for lab managers that have multiple labs.

Ranville suggests that the university provides subsidized service contracts on instruments that are primarily used by multiple individuals and not to keep one personal instrument running.

A question is raised regarding the electrician and technical services at other research institutions.

Non-T/TT researchers on campus

Yvette

Kuiper

Kuiper directs Council to a list of non-T/TT researchers on campus and that the current step is solidifying what each individual on the list does. Council is seeking a method to concretely define research professors, research associates, postdocs, and others on campus.

The definitions are being sought out due to discrepancies between on campus definitions and the Faculty Handbook.

The subcommittee will meet with Kuiper (12/16) to further discuss Handbook and Council language regarding research associates and research assistants at Mines.

Adjourn

Yvette Kuiper

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06pm.

The next Research Council meeting will be January 13th 3:00-4:00pm, via Zoom.