

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

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

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

Non-Voting Members:

P	Johanna Eagan (ORA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	P	Hanzelle Kleeman (USG)	P	Moirra Miller (GSG)	A	Barb O’Kane (EHS)*
P	*Proxy for Barb O’Kane – Lee Ann Underwood								

Welcome

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper begins by welcoming Councilors to a new year and introducing Curriculum and Administrative Specialist Mara Green.

Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2020

Yvette Kuiper

MOTION: To approve the Research Council minutes from December 8, 2020 by Kuiper, seconded by Reddy. No abstentions. APPROVED.

Subcommittee Updates

Kuiper states that this meeting will cycle through the individual subcommittees of Research Council and set goals for the following five Research Council meetings.

Research Council Bylaws

Jim Ranville

The Bylaws subcommittee is looking over what to do with the interdisciplinary programs and if the bylaws should default and remain as is with the current programs being represented or whether there is a decision Council member would like to reach.

Kuiper provides an example of every program championing one member. Discussion of interdisciplinary inclusion in Research Council is still in discussion with the board of Interdisciplinary Program directors.

Ranville explains the discussion with the board prior to holiday in that none of the interdisciplinary programs would want to be removed from Research Council. The goal is to look at how Council fares in accurately representing the different entities across campus without making the Council too large to function. Discussion should be had on what metrics will be used to designate seats on Council.

Kuiper introduces an invitation for Councilors to meet between this Council meeting and the next (2/10) to discuss representation of interdisciplinary programs on Council.

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

Xerxes Steirer

Steirer informs Councilors that the subcommittee has split into three sub teams

Monecke states that there is discussion of creating a mechanism to have more support for instrumentation.

Steirer has been looped into conversations with Geoff Brennecka regarding discussions on funding a number of technicians across campus. At least one of these technicians will support clean room activities and there is motivation and momentum to continue hiring several technicians.

Shragge discusses the communications effort. There is recognition that the current webpage could be managed better; the information for this webpage comes from an Excel spreadsheet that has to be manually updated. The communications effort subgroup has identified that the procurement and asset tracking software is poor and are looking at adopting Operations, Administration and Management (OAM) software that facilities uses to track assets across campus. Facilities uses the OAM software integrated in Trailhead. During asset procurement, a field could be added to show what assets can be added or are needed.

Inventory management can be used across campus with OAM; the subcommittee will continue to investigate what other options can be used to leverage this platform both internally and externally.

Research Council Lecture

Tzahi Cath

Updates from the Research Council Lecture subcommittee has been tabled for the following Research Council meeting.

Mentoring

Tzahi Cath

Cath states that a meeting with the Provost needs to be scheduled to discuss mentoring, how it will be done and how mentoring will be evaluated.

Faculty Research Awards

Yvette Kuiper

There are Faculty Research Rewards, Junior and Senior rewards. The Faculty Research Award subcommittee will receive an email from Kuiper on the schedule and two to three meetings on the rubric. The plan would be to make a first selection on three separate categories and send out corresponding letters. A winner will then be picked each of the three categories.

A comment is brought up on providing postdoc research awards as encouragement.

A question is asked regarding communication with graduate students for organizing the GRADS annual conference; in the past the Research Council has helped with judging at the event or providing Faculty support. Contact will be made with the graduate student representative for conference planning in the future.

Non-T/TT Researchers on campus

Jim Simmons

The handbook and procedures descriptions were discussed on the following titles:

- Research Professor
- Research Associate Professor

- Research Assistant Professor
- Visiting Scholar
- Postdoctoral Fellow
- Research Associate
- Research Support Staff
- Research Administrative Professional
- Research Technical Professionals
- Affiliate Faculty
- External Joint Appointees

Kuiper explains that the problem does not lie with the definitions within the Handbook and Procedures Manual and do not need to be changed. The problem may be that people receive these titles and should not or they are not performing what is in their job description.

The subcommittee finds that there are no recommended changes to the Handbook and Procedures Manual.

Review of the roles falls to the departments and Research Council does not feel the need to be policing these roles.

The subcommittee did discuss the possibility of removing the two-year postdoc requirement for research associates. The Handbook currently states that a research associate has to have been a postdoc for two years; a comment was brought up regarding needing a research associate or postdoc type of person who does not have postdoc experience. This is due to postdoc experience having other implications.

Discussion begins between Council on defining research assistants and research associates, and procedures between the two (review of the following link in the Faculty Handbook: <https://catalog.mines.edu/facultyhandbook/4appointments/41-faculty-ranks-titles/>).

The subcommittee will write up a document with the proposal pros and cons that can be put up for Council discussion.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

The next Research Council meeting will be February 10, 2:00-3:00pm, via Zoom.

Yvette Kuiper