

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
 May 12, 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)
P	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Yilin Fan (PE)	A	Randy Haupt (EE)	A	Rennie Kaunda (MN)	P	Adrienne Kroepsch (HASS)
P	Thomas Monecke (GE)	P	Svitlana Pylpenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)	P	Jamal Rostami (UCT)
P	Mahadevan Ganesh (AMS)	P	Jeffrey Shragge (GP)	P	James Simmons (MP/SH)	P	John Spear (CEE)	P	Kenneth “Xerxes” Steirer (EREP)
P	Eric Toberer (MS/PH)	P	Ning Wu (CBE)	P	Hao Zhang (CS)	P	Michael Heeley (EB)		

**Non-Voting Members:**

P	Johanna Eagan (ORA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	A	Hanzelle Kleeman (USG)	P	Moira Miller (GSG)	A	Barb O’Kane (EHS)
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**Welcome**

Yvette Kuiper

**Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2021**

Yvette Kuiper

**MOTION:** To approve the Research Council minutes of April 14, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Steirer. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

**HPC Funding**

A funding model was established by HPC in the past in which priority access was purchased for two clusters and others could access this for free through a sign-up approval process. In Fall 2020, the expenses purchased were posted where it was then established the model would no longer work with Federal Cost Accounting Standards and some federal allowable cost rules.

ORA has been working with HPC on a cost model that would be used across campus. Once a rate has been identified across the board, ORA will look into a business model regarding timelines and departments or individuals that have already purchased what had been considered priority access or invested in the HPC cluster.

The first phase is identifying expenses going in, how many users and what types of users are on campus; HPC is working to finalize those numbers prior to addressing bigger questions.

Question on the specific regulations or standards being violated and who interpreted the documentation to find Mines noncompliant with those standards; Eagan states the federal guidelines are called Federal Cost Accounting Standards and the guidelines that match research is 2 CFR part 200. When universities setup funding structures for institutional resources the two funding structures are F&A infrastructure model and HPC. F&A infrastructure model rolls the cost of infrastructure needs to F&A rate proposal where the university supports the costs by adding into the IDC rate. When a research project is charged, the university is collecting necessary costs in order to support that activity.

When Mines had invested in HPC it was decided to not pursue the F&A model as not all would utilize it on campus and the F&A rate was beginning to grow. Mines then converted to an auxiliary funding model that charge users who utilize that resource at base cost. The HPC has always been an auxiliary enterprise at Mines; the previous rate structure had been noncompliant due to charging some and not all users. A subset of users across campus were carrying the bulk of the cost for a resource that others had been using for free. This is unallowable from an auxiliary cost accounting standard as the use on the machine is the same.

Eagan informs Councilors that the rules have not changed, Mines has always had an auxiliary model but a noncompliant rate. There is no timeline for implementation at the moment; current task involves creation of an applicable rate and how to implement it.

Question on the forward plan of communication with researchers who are affected; Eagan reports presentation of final raw rates to the HPC leadership and discussion of how to develop and integrate these rates. Once approval has been made an institutional level, the discretion is left to HPC directors and the Faculty Oversight committee on how subsidies are applied or discussed.

Question on release of the HPC steering committee rates and the model being proposed; Eagan can bring these to Council once signed. HPC leadership includes: Matthew Ketterling and Torey Battelle.

#### **VPRTT Search**

Six virtual interviews in the first two weeks of June; one or more representatives from Research Council have been requested.

#### **Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)**

The VPRTT office committed \$40,000 per year (\$20k per Fall and Spring semester). Kuiper is working with Mike Kaufmann to discuss investment from the Deans.

#### **Research Fusion/Lecture Series**

Discussion of Research Awardees providing lectures in the Fall in a Research Lecture series. Presentations for the Research Fusion would be five minutes with alternate topics. The proposal, written by Rostami, outlines the ability to update campus in a quick format on faculty research and data.

#### **Graduate Stipends**

Barbari met with Research Council to discuss graduate stipends; the subcommittee has met for discussions. Kuiper has reached out to Graduate Council for proposed initiatives regarding cost of living and distribution of stipends across diverse student populations.

Barbari had requested feedback on raising graduate stipends by 3% every year. Councilors are encouraged to pursue open conversations within departments.

#### **Reflections, Membership and Subcommittees**

Following subcommittees to continue: small research equipment/instrumentation investment, research awards, research fusion/lecture series, and research communications.

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:07pm.  
Research Council will meet starting August 2021.

Yvette Kuiper