

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, via Zoom

Attendees:

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

P	Yvette Kuiper (Chair)	A	Emily Bongiovanni (LB)	A	Tzahi Cath (HY)	P	Andrew Petruska (ME)	P	Emmanuel DeMoor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Yilin Fan (PE)	A	Randy Haupt (EE)	P	Rennie Kaunda (MN)	A	Adrianne Kroepsch (HASS)
A	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	Jim Simmons (GP)	P	John Spear (CEE)	A	Kenneth "Xerxes" Steirer (EREP)
A	Eric Toberer (MS/PH)	P	Sumit Agarwal (CBE)	P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)	P	Tulay Flamand (EB)		

Non-Voting Members:

P	Johanna Eagan (ORA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	P	James Frishkoff (GSG)	P	Barb O’Kane (EHS)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
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Special Guest(s):

Introductions

Yvette Kuiper

New and returning Councilors introduced themselves.

Operations

Yvette Kuiper

Council Meeting Format

Research Council will remain in a virtual format for the Fall 2021 semester, meeting format will be revisited in Spring 2022.

Canvas, Teams Communications

Kuiper reviewed methods of Council communication through Canvas and Microsoft Teams. Canvas contains minutes, meeting transcripts, and meeting recordings. Teams contains working files and documents from subcommittees and meetings.

Teams information is deleted at the end of the academic year for the following Council.

Research Council Continuity

Kuiper will be completing the final term on Faculty Senate and will no longer chair Research Council following Spring 2022. Kuiper encouraged Councilors to consider Faculty Senate membership and chairing the next Research Council.

Moving Oct. 13 to Oct. 20

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper noted being unable to attend October 13th session due to travel, and suggested moving this meeting date to October 20th. Minutes and Council recording will be available following the session for those unable to attend that day.

MOTION: Shifting the October 13, 2021 Research Council meeting to October 20, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Rostami. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

Active Subcommittees

Yvette Kuiper

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

The Small Research Equipment subcommittee has sent out a call for funding requests.

Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

The Research Council Lecture series is being organized currently.

Subcommittees – Plans for 2021-22

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

Yvette Kuiper

The committee branched from the Strategic Instrumentation and Space subcommittee to focus on requests for small equipment between \$5k-50k. This was being done to cover equipment too big to pull from leftover grant funds but too small to be considered for new grants. This internal funding mechanism is funded through the RTT office and the two academic deans. Fund requests can range from new equipment to current equipment.

The proposal has been approved by RTT. The committee will consist of three members of Council, a representative of RTT, and three equipment managers; the committee has not been finalized yet. This committee will put out the call for requests and review proposals. Once reviewed, final proposals will be voted on by Council.

Kuiper requested feedback from Councilors on the call for requests sheet prior to it being sent out to faculty.

Comment made on the eligibility section of the form regarding individuals who have startup being ineligible for requesting funding and no comment regarding discretionary funds. An individual running a large program that has discretionary funds is ineligible as these people are research active. Kuiper notes that for this round this ineligibility will remain, but will be brought to RTT for the following round of funding.

Suggestion made to provide eligibility specifications for discretionary funds or startup over a certain amount. The eligibility was made to provide some flexibility, Councilors noted providing less constraint for eligibility of funds.

Removal of this eligibility language and other suggestions will be brought to the RTT office.

Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

Jamal Rostami

The intent is to provide two research fusions and one lecture per Fall and Spring semester. The lecture would be done by the winners of the Research Excellence Award.

This was created with the intent to bring researchers of various disciplines together in an informal environment similar to Mines' Five-Minute Madness. The faculty member will provide an elevator pitch of their research. Rostami encourages Councilors to bring this event to their departments and encourage peers to attend and present at the event. Additional feedback is encouraged.

Excellence in Research Awards

Yvette Kuiper

These awards have been held since the creation of Research Council. Two awards are provided for junior and senior through Academic Affairs, but winners are selected by Research Council and confirmed by Faculty Senate.

Call for nominations begins December, review in January, and award in April.

Research Communications

Yilin Fan

Recommendations have been provided to Council to improve communication on campus for equipment owners, where equipment is located, and how and when it can be used.

Improvement is also being made on the RTT website. Research is being done on implementing database software used by facilities to keep track of on-campus research equipment.

Definitions, Roles (and Promotion) of non-tenure/tenure track researchers

Thomas Monecke

Definitions of terms such as research associates, affiliates, assistants, full professors, professors of practice, and definitions of postdocs. There are a wide variety of individuals on campus with titles, but varying qualifications and goals.

The committee is tasked with revisiting these terms and definitions and providing recommendations. The committee will also be working alongside the Equal Work for Equal Pay project to assure equity.

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

Svitlana Pylpenko

Committee is tasked with looking into shared research facilities and what can be improved and done differently.

Graduate Stipends

Adrienne Kroepsch

Graduate Dean Tim Barbari attended Research Council in the Spring 2021 semester to introduce issues of graduate stipend differences between departments and these stipend variations. The gap between departments is being analyzed with hope to narrow it, but identification of where the money will come from to narrow this gap still needs to be done.

Committee is tasked with looking at various universities to see what graduate students are receiving elsewhere, how this money is raised, and how this gap can be narrowed. Recommendations would then be provided to Barbari.

High-Performance Computing

Jeff Shragge

Solutions were presented late in the Spring 2021 semester to identify possible solutions for the high-performance computing policies. There was an issue of communication between those creating policies changes and the high-performance computing community.

Committee tasked with follow-ups on the policy changes and broader communication between policy makers and the community.

Shragge informed Councilors that engagement across the university began for discussing these regulatory compliance issues and how this will impact computing at Mines.

Eagan commented on communications with the HPC team, there is work being done to create meetings to start the discussion again.

Mentoring

John Spear

The committee is tasked with following up a drafted document for mentoring drafted eight years by the Faculty Senate. Kuiper reported that the Geology and Geological Engineering department is beginning formation of an official mentoring plan, and this committee should coordinate with departments looking to do so.

Spear agreed with the task of the committee; added the use of words that can be distributed across department committees.

Mines Research Incentive Plan

Mike Kauffman sent out an email regarding the Mines Research Incentive Plan that would allow programs bringing in large amounts of research funding and funding enough graduate students to pay researchers additional money from those funds. Pros of the plan are increased retention and attraction of faculty members. Cons include equity issues and issues in working with the Equal Work for Equal Pay project.

Comment made on the timing of the form being the beginning of academic year, when several grants were being funded in the middle of the year. Suggestion made to move this form to the beginning of the summer.

The committee would be tasked with identifying feedback like this, and providing recommendations.

MOTION: To approve the 21-22 Research Council year-plan by Kuiper, seconded by Reddy. Motion passes unanimously. **APPROVED.**

Adjourn

Yvette Kuiper

Meeting adjourned: 3:08 pm.

Next meeting: October 20, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.