

Colorado School of Mines – Research Council Minutes
December 8, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom

Attendees:

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

P	Yvette Kuiper (Chair)	P	Patrick Farrell (LB)	P	Tulay Flamand (EB)	P	Andrew Petruska (ME)	P	Emmanuel DeMoor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Yilin Fan (PE)	P	Matthew Morgan (CGS)	P	Rennie Kaunda (MN)	P	Adrienne Kroepsch (HASS)
P	Thomas Monecke (GE)	P	Svitlana Pylypenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)	P	Jamal Rostami (UCT)
A	Mahadevan Ganesh (AMS)	A	Jeffrey Shragge (GP)	A	Jim Simmons (GP)	A	John Spear (CEE)	P	Kenneth “Xerxes” Steirer (EREP)
A	Eric Toberer (MS/PH)	P	Sumit Agarwal (CBE)	P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)				

Non-Voting Members:

P	Johanna Eagan (ORA)	P	Mara Green (AA)	A	James Frishkoff (GSG)	P	Barb O’Kane (EHS)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
---	---------------------	---	-----------------	---	-----------------------	---	-------------------	---	----------------------

Special Guest(s): Erika Jermé (ORA), Walter Copan (VPRTT), Lakshmi Krishna (PH), Michael Kaufman (MME)

Welcome New Research Council Members

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper introduced the new library representative, P. Farrell, and the representative for the Colorado Geological Society, M. Morgan. R. Haupt will be retiring and a new representative for EE will be elected.

Approval of Minutes – November 11, 2021

Yvette Kuiper

MOTION: To approve the Research Council minutes of November 11, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Steirer. Motion passed unanimously. APPROVED.

Pivot-RP Funding Database

Erika Jermé

Jermé, from the Office of Research and Tech Transfer (RTT), provided an overview of the funding search engine replacing Grant Forward called Pivot-RP ([click here](#)). Access is granted by logging in with Mines’ institutional credentials, once an account has been created funding opportunities can be searched on the home screen. Jermé and Kinzel have worked on minimizing the searching burden for Mines’ Pivot users and will create a curated list for local funding opportunities.

The Pivot-RP search function allows for filtering funding amounts, deadlines, submission details, institution and application locations, citizenship, funding type, funder type, and the country of the funder. Once results have been selected, the search can be further refined to remove unrelated topics.

User profiles can be manually updated. Users that have an ORCID ID can plug this in, PIVOT will automatically provide publications listed through this ID.

Question raised on workshops available on PIVOT; Jermé noted that training sessions will begin once user profile bugs have been ironed out and should begin following the Winter Break holiday. These workshops may occur on Fridays from 12-1pm. Additional questions can be directed to Jermé or the RTT office.

Mines RTT Priority Goals and Interface with Research Council

Walt Copan

Copan outlined goals for Mines RTT office. The goals outlined in Mines@150 raising the profile of Mines research, providing strategic framework for Mines research development, development of a robust collaborative process and action plan for research space with sustainability, diversify the funding base, establish an external Research and Innovation Advisory Board, expand strategic alliances for RTT, and purposefully link Mines' RTT with innovation and entrepreneurship.

Copan reported Mines' having had \$88 million in total research awards in 2020. There is a continued resolution phase with the federal government where federal funding agencies are holding off on new requests for proposals. For the 2022 fiscal year, Mines may be on track for approaching \$100 million in research awards.

Copan met with the Board of Trustees, 12/3, where the Board voiced strong opinions on Mines increasing its outreach for research and technology and making this obvious and accessible for external policymakers.

The Research Advisory Board will work in coordination with Research Council to avoid duplicated efforts and maximize benefit. The advisory board will work in assessing the need for shared support resources across campus, benchmarking and reviewing Mines' distribution and use of indirect cost returns, building communication across Mines centers and industrial stakeholders, evaluating engagement across Mines research programs, and reviewing research space allocations. Copan noted that these goals will move toward improved facilities use, support of new faculty hiring, and site plan development.

The following subcommittees were reported on:

Review of Research Centers

The subcommittee was charged with examination of research centers and their relationships with Mines departments, assessing external reputations and perceptions of research centers, determination of how current centers and deliverables enhance Mines' brand and reputation, and providing suggestions to RTT leadership.

Research Support Services

The subcommittee was charged with examination and benchmarking research support as relative to other institutions and provide a prioritized list of services that enhance research productivity of faculty.

Indirect Cost Distribution

The subcommittee was charged with examination and benchmarking indirect cost utilization relative to other institutions, propose alternative distribution model(s) for indirect cost return including total return to research enterprise and a breakdown of distribution. This would be delivered to RTT, the deans, research centers, and departments. Copan reported on the indirect costs return, a portion of the total overhead, 77.4% goes to Mines' General Fund. 4% goes to the college and the Deans, 4% goes to the VPRTT, and 14.6% is distributed to campus through departments and through the research centers.

Mines Industrial Associates Program

The subcommittee was charged with determining the best practices for university-industry engagement programs, propose an Industrial Associates program structure and membership model that would appeal to companies and provides effective engagement, and development of a proposal for a pilot in FY23 while considering the development of the Global Energy Frontier initiative.

Copan reported on Mines' Networks which provides an ecosystem for public and private funding, policymakers, RD&E Partners, Federal Labs, Corporations, Key Organizations, Entrepreneurs, Investors, Experienced Leaders, and Expert Services Access.

The goal for the RTT office is to support conversion of intentions, discoveries, and research into new business ventures or new licensing opportunities and new partnerships. This is done in coordination with the development of the McNeil Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The Mines Venture Center is anticipated to breakdown in early 2022; the space is expected as a business incubator and co-working space.

Copan reported on startup development services at Mines such as the \$15 million NSF I-Corp Hub with the University of Southern California, UCLA, and CU Boulder; the hub will fund and support innovation and translational research as well as supporting new business startups. Mines Faculty Entrepreneurship and Innovation orientation training and resources kickoff will be at: Mines Venture Center 1750 Jackson St. The open house and Foundational E&I Lunch and Learn begins 1/12 at 11am-1pm. Biweekly E&I Workshops, technology pitches, and networking receptions begin 1/26 from 5pm-7pm.

A series of townhalls will take place in collaboration with the National Renewable Energy laboratory (NREL) to identify opportunities for further partnerships and remove administrative and process barriers. Events will be planned with policymakers to demonstrate Mines thought leadership in Washington D.C. Partnership has been made between Mines Payne Institute and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Methane thought leader events for February 2022 at Mines, April 2022 in D.C. with CSIS and Payne.

Copan presented on the administration FY22 proposal. Key elements are the advancement of U.S. competitiveness with key trends being climate, energy and renewables, critical minerals, advanced manufacturing, and circular economy.

Mines Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee (MURAC)

Lakshmi Krishna

The offices of Undergraduate Research Scholars and University Honors and Scholars programs sought advice on establishment of a Mines Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee (MURAC). MURAC would seek to assist, enhance, and promote undergraduate research initiatives on campus. The committee members would consist of mentors or faculty mentors from each department with consideration for an external representative from Mines' alumni or industry, a student representative, and a member of the URS office.

Duties of MURAC would include advising and establishing policies and procedures for funding undergraduate proposals. There are two funding opportunities for students: First Program for first-year innovation and research where over 250 applications are received annually. The second funding program is the Mines Undergraduate Research Fellowship. MURAC would also consider the eventual place of research in Mines' curriculum and assisting students with faculty mentors.

Question on how many members would be on the committee; Krishna suggested ten members as a start. The strategic plan is being worked on and faculty perspective will be sought after.

Question on opportunities for research in the summer where students can engage in more complicated experiments and dedicate more time with funding from Academic Affairs or co-funding with Research

Council; Krishna reported that as of now there is not funding for summer but the discussion has been brought forward for MURAC. Suggestion made for a smaller number of students in the summer.

Committee Updates and Other Business

Definition, roles (and promotion) of non-TT researchers on campus

Thomas Monecke

The committee has looked at the definition of various research titles on campus and an initial draft of some titles has been created. It will be provided to Research Council once distributed to HR, VPRTT, and other stakeholders. Monecke encouraged Councilors to direct definition concerns to the committee. The RTT office and HR are currently involved in the initiative.

Adjourn

Yvette Kuiper

Meeting adjourned: 2:59 pm.

Next meeting: January 11, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.