

## Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Hill Hall 300

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### Attendees:

**Voting Members:** 18 total (10 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present

P	Shubham Vyas (Chair)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)		Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)
P	Samy Wu Fung (AMS)	P	Emmanuel De Moor (MME)		Eric Toberer (PH)
	Diego Gomez-Gualdron (CBE)		Mark Deinert (ME)	P	James Simmons (GP)
P	Annalise Maughan (CH)	P	Patricia Andersen (LB)		Xhexuan Gong (PH)
P	Timm Strathmann (CEE)	P	Erdal Ozkan (PE)		
P	Maxwell Brown (EB)	P	Kun Zhang (MN)		
P	Hussein Amery (HASS)	P	Eric Roberts (GE)		

### Other Regular Attendees and Guests

	Barb O’Kane		Lisa Kinzel (RTT)		Runeem Al Abssi (USG)
P	Ellie Miller (GSG)		Kristeen Serracino (AA)		

Special Guest(s):

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## Welcome and Senate Updates

Shubham Vyas

**MOTION:** The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was moved by M. Brown and seconded by E Miller. The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes unanimously with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

Senate updates – Faculty Senate met with PCJ to continue the discussion about how budget restrictions are affecting faculty benefits, specifically the healthcare premiums. The Senate pushed to delay premiums from January 2026 to July/August 2026 so that there are two pay raise cycles before any changes are made. This also will hopefully ensure that premiums do not go up significantly over time or will encourage campaigns in the future to possibly raise money from donations to target faculty/staff welfare. Additionally, according to an email from Peter Han, Mines will be bringing three Provost candidates to campus. S. Vyas encouraged the Council to attend to provide feedback and ask questions. There was a push to have the search committee include more faculty members to encourage more faculty involvement.

- **Question:** E. Ozkan asked, is there an initiative in place to communicate information regarding efforts to address the issue of faculty benefits to the general Mines community?
- **Answer:** S. Vyas answered that at the next Faculty Senate meeting, there will be discussion on how to convey all efforts back to faculty members. PCJ has also communicated that he would like to have more one-on-one meetings with Faculty Senate to consistently hear faculty concerns (insufficient raises, pay gaps, lack of resources, etc.) as well as hold more events such as town halls to communicate Faculty Senate (and others) efforts to the bigger Mines community.

## REI Awards Update

Shubham Vyas

REI funding has been secured from VPRTT and the Deans. Both portfolios are contributing \$10,000 each and VPRTT is contributing \$60,000 for a net of \$80,000. There is a plan in place to ask the Deans for additional contributions to match last year’s total of \$120,000, especially if more

proposals are submitted. For last year's REI awards, what went well and what did not? Are there any changes that need to be made?

- **Comment:** A. Maughan added that last year, there were 1-2 proposals submitted that did not specify cost share correctly and therefore were disqualified. It may be good to include clearer instruction on this.

There was also concern last year that REI software or AI licenses are not qualified. What does the Council think about this? Should software be qualified to get REI funds?

- **Comment:** T. Strathmann added since many softwares are multi-year subscriptions, it may be good to include that seed funding is for one year only and require a plan for external funding or other proposals.
- **Question:** E. De Moor asked what are the stipulations for the REI proposals submissions?
- **Answer:** S. Vyas answered there is not a lengthy page requirement for REI – an Excel template and any additional documentation is optional. In the past, REI award funding has been deposited directly to a discretionary account to spend. However, other proposals around campus do not fund this way. Instead, a notification is sent out regarding the authorized amount and then an index number is provided for invoicing which seems like a better option for REI for accountability and tracking. There were no objections from the Council regarding this suggestion. S. Vyas will reach out to K. Luzeckyj to set up an index account number and continue discussion on how to provide further instruction for invoicing.

The REI Awards Committee charged to meet outside of the Council meeting and review the REI ad on the Research Council website to see if any updates are needed. The goal is to get the call for nominations sent out at the end of January and the deadline a month later. 1-2 equipment managers will also be added to this subcommittee to also review proposals/provide feedback.

### **Research Fusion Discussion**

All

The Research Fusion committee will meet outside of the council meeting and discuss how to organize the Research Fusion event. This committee needs a lead -- Mike Wakin volunteered to chair the committee. For the next meeting, the committee can present an event budget so that funds can be secured.

### **Research Awards Update**

All

So far, 4 nominations for senior awards and 9 nominations for junior awards. They are currently in the Research Awards Canvas page. S. Vyas is working on revamping the rubric. The goal is to narrow down to 6 candidates. Since there are only 4 nominations for the senior awards, external letters will not be required. AA needs Council feedback by March 14<sup>th</sup>. S. Vyas would like to finalize by the end of February so that letters may be distributed.

### **Memo Committee Update**

All

N. Smith and the remaining committee drafted a memo summary to forward to Faculty Senate. The finalized memo will be distributed to the Council. If there are any corrections, please make any updates. The final document will be submitted to the Faculty Senate at their next meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Future Meetings**

Shubham Vyas

Possible visitors for Spring meeting schedule. A key suggestion from previous RC meeting was to have someone from ORA visit the Research Council to discuss proposal submission, research billing, post-awards as well as other current challenges. There have also been issues of subcontracts from NREL not getting processed properly which has caused loss of grant dollars.

**Adjourn** at 2:32 pm

Shubham Vyas

Next Meeting: February 5, 2025, in Hill Hall 300. Please send agenda items to [svyas@mines.edu](mailto:svyas@mines.edu).