

Colorado School of Mines – Research Council Minutes  
 October 20, 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	Tulay Flamand (EB)	P	Andrew Petruska (ME)	P	Emmanuel DeMoor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Yilin Fan (PE)	P	Randy Haupt (EE)	P	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)	A	Jeffrey Shragge (GP)	P	Jim Simmons (GP)	P	John Spear (CEE)	P	Kenneth “Xerxes” Steirer (EREP)
A	Eric Toberer (MS/PH)	P	Sumit Agarwal (CBE)	P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)				

**Non-Voting Members:**

A	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):**

**Welcome**

Yvette Kuiper

**Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2021**

Yvette Kuiper

**MOTION:** To approve the Research Council minutes of September 8, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Reddy. Motion passed unanimously. 12 for, 1 abstention. APPROVED.

**RTT Updates and Requests**

The new Vice President of Research and Technology Transfer, Walter Copan, has been working with the Research Advisory Board (met 10/20). Copan is looking to begin an external Research and Innovation Advisory Board which would allow external input and advice on future research and innovation at Mines to grow external relationships and open opportunities for additional funding and pursuing larger challenges. Individuals would serve three-year terms with two meetings per year and 12-15 members.

Question on inclusion of alumni; Copan has not specified alumni, but alumni inclusion would be expected.

Copan will consider new buildings, new building plans and the internal makeup and how they will be used. An additional space utilization survey will provide an evaluation of what faculty believe is needed.

The Research Advisory Board noted overlap on research communications between the Council and the Board; the Board will be looking at communication toward the outside world as opposed to internal communications, which is a committee of the Research Council (complimentary goals).

A larger plan brought forward by Copan is consideration of Mines moving toward R1 status and becoming a part of the Association of American Universities, which requires a particular status and research specifications within the institution.

Comment made on qualifying for R1 status, Mines would need a full range of undergraduate and graduate programs which would conflict the STEM-only reputation of the institution. Councilors noted this having implication on teaching loads, securing NIH funding, and increased burden for graduate students.

Copan will also be working on revising the IDC model and if additional programs should apply for funding.

Councilors will bring updates to departments.

### **Updates on Shared Facilities**

Xerxes Steirer

Shared facilities have hired an individual to run the clean rooms and are training on details on 25 pieces of equipment. Some equipment has been taken on by other members of shared facilities, including the shared photo lithography capabilities and UHV thin-film deposition system. The system will have an ultra-vacuum and sputter and electron-beam capabilities for thin-film deposition.

The clean room clusters are working on details to provide free access to undergraduates performing research across campus that have trouble accessing equipment due to user fees. An agreement was reached to allow undergraduates to access tech fee supported equipment within the cluster. If the level of usage is tracked and high enough the shared facilities can request some level of support for undergraduate use and research.

Access to the shared facilities website is available ([click here](#)).

### **Subcommittee Updates**

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

Yvette Kuiper

The subcommittee will meet 10/22 to review the ten submitted proposals.

#### Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

Yvette Kuiper

The first Research Fusion will occur 11/4 at 2pm.

The first Research Council Lecture will be 11/30 at 2pm (date here updates after the meeting)

#### Excellence in Research Awards

Yvette Kuiper

No updates from Excellence in Research Awards; call for nominations will go out in December

#### Research Communications

Yilin Fan

The subcommittee will meet 10/22. The current target is to provide recommendations to improve the public website for faculty and external users to browse and search equipment and research facilities available on campus. The subcommittee will investigate the possibility to create a website and system that collects this information automatically; the RTT and Controller's Office have been contacted. Other university systems will be assessed.

#### Definition, Roles (and promotion) of non-T/TT researchers on campus

Thomas Monecke

The subcommittee is looking at the Mines policies for different categories of research faculty and what these individuals are and are not allowed to do and how promotion will work for these individuals. Once defined, definitions will be brought to the Handbook Committee as a recommendation.

#### Strategic Instrumentation and Space

Svitlana Pylypenko

Subcommittee has met with Dan Knauss and Mike Kaufman to share initiatives and discussions from Council. Several items are in flux due to the new VPRTT.

#### Graduate Stipends

Adrienne Kroepsch

Expressed importance of following Graduate Council's lead regarding graduate stipends; communication will continue.

#### High-Performance Computing

Mahadevan Ganesh (Jeff Shragge)

Discussion began in Spring 2021 due to a problem addressed by Cyberinfrastructure and Advanced Research Computing (CIARC) in cluster computing. Several computers have been bought by faculty or bought by faculty at the university-level. A document was leaked the on the CIARC model, faculty worried that this model would be pay-as-you-go and would affect individuals that have put in funding over the last 10 years. This pay-as-you-go model was identified as a rumor; communication had stopped during the Summer and beginning of Fall.

The subcommittee has reached out to CIARC and identified individuals to be present in the meeting including some faculty members from the HPC steering committee and the Research Council HPC subcommittee.

#### Mentoring

John Spear

Different departments are going about mentoring differently. Subcommittee will gather information and begin planning on how to mentor specifically in regard to research with the various components of research positions in mind.

#### Mines Research Incentive Plan

Yvette Kuiper

Subcommittee has not met. No updates.

#### **Other Business**

Emily Bongiovanni

The library has received campus innovation funds to pilot an open access funding program. These funds would assist in covering article processing charges for open access articles. Will go live 10/25. Information to be forwarded to departments, information session will take place 10/26.

Pilot received \$20,000 a year for two years, very limited. Content will not be evaluated. Evaluation will be based on Mines' affiliated authors, graduate student authors, and if the journal is listed within the open access directory it may be rated higher. Graduate students cannot receive the funding directly, it will go into professional development or research development funds.

#### **Adjourn**

Yvette Kuiper

Meeting adjourned: 2:57 pm.

Next meeting: November 10, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.