

Colorado School of Mines – Research Council Minutes
November 10, 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)
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)	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)
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Special Guest(s): Dan Knauss (EM, CH)

Welcome

Yvette Kuiper

Kuiper welcomed Councilors. Green provided a brief overview of the Research Council site ([click here](#)).

Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2021

Yvette Kuiper

MOTION: To approve the Research Council minutes of October 20, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Reddy. 16 for, 2 abstentions. APPROVED.

Operations of the AA Space Committee and upcoming construction projects Dan Knauss

Knauss had taken on the role of Tracy Baldwin. A Space Committee had been developed; the committee provides recommendations to the Provost to solve various space-related issues. The committee is made up of Dan Knauss (chair), Mike Kauffman, John Berger, Terri Hogue, the chair of the Department Heads Council, and representation from the Office of Design and Construction (ODC). The committee looks at space issues that departments cannot solve individually including new space development, new construction, renovations, and other requests that come up from the faculty through the department heads. A form is submitted through the department head that will go up to the space committee; faculty do not have access to this form and it should be requested through the department head. The committee is working to keep Academic Affairs informed on what departments need and prioritizing various requests.

The Vice President of Research Technology Transfer had spearheaded a new strategic facilities committee with the Deans, Provost, Student Life and Mines’ Finance, Administration, and Operations division.

Knauss provided an overview of current projects. The joint project between Mines and the US Geological Survey building is part of the infrastructure bill and will be a Mines building. Designs and occupation of the building have not been finalized; architectural design has been paid for. The building will be called

the Minerals Energy Resources building (MERb). The Space Committee will be looking at which Mines' groups will move into that space.

A proposed building pilot would be replacing a leased space downtown where water research is being conducted by Tzahi Cath, additional research is still in discussion for the proposed building pilot space.

Question raised on the Innovation Complex building between the General Research Lab (GRL) and General Research Lab Annex (GRLA); construction on the building will begin in December 2021. Knauss noted that buildings mentioned are part of the master plan which is now being rethought with better understanding of the university's financial status and number of students.

Question raised on the timeframe of the Child Care Center; a specific timeline is unknown but there is discussion of this center being established. During the Finance, Administration, and Operations (FN&O) townhall on 6/3 the Early Childhood Education Center is targeted to open Fall/Winter of 2022 ([found here on slide 24](#)).

Question raised on discussions of classroom capacity or projects related to research; Knauss stated the Strategic Facilities Development team will be looking into total classroom and research needs, new buildings will be driven primarily by research with some new classrooms. Priority is development of research buildings. Knauss noted that the number of students needs to be known prior to any planning being done to provide a starting point for space needs.

Question raised on faculty representation on the Space and Strategic Facilities Development committees; at the moment there is not faculty involvement or department head representation on the committees.

Question raised on new faculty developing labs and this influencing the amount of time needed in the five-year tenure clock; Knauss suggested cooperation and sharing of spaces with the Mines@150 goals of hiring additional faculty. Suggestion to identify graduate seating that is being inefficiently used; use of space will come down to the individual department. Administration is prioritizing spaces that generate funds.

Councilors discussed issues of new hires and cluster hires being outside of what a department may need, along with lack of space. It was noted that some offices remain empty for some time and there may be an issue of inefficiently managed space.

Comment made on working toward eliminating problems related to space; suggestion made that space is identified prior to hiring new faculty.

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI) Committee Recommendation

The Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment committee received ten requests, only nine were reviewed. The tenth request was for an uninterrupted power supply for which the RTT office has a different process of funding.

A rubric was created for eligibility and criteria and were ranked on a scale of one to three; results were compiled and averaged.

The final recommendations for the Fall 2021 requests were: Angus Rockett and Xerxes Steirer, and Jeff Squier and Alexis Sitchler.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation from the Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI) committee by Kuiper, seconded by De Moor. 16 for, 2 abstentions. APPROVED.

Information for the REI process and results have been posted to the Research Council website for transparency purposes ([click here](#)).

Strategic Implementation and Space

Svitlana Pylypenko

The committee will address software that checks for capacity and utilization in some spaces on campus; the committee will discuss how to gather information. The subcommittee had proposed reigniting department research committees to utilize space better and figure out initiatives based on individual departments.

The committee had spoken on previous space issues having been tied to department funding, and the suggestion was made to look at the number of people working in a specific lab spaces; the statistics for this are unknown. Comment made on remaining careful on data collection; there may be cases of various authority dictating space allocation, reservations of space, and overall space proportioning.

Adjourn

Yvette Kuiper

Meeting adjourned: 3:02 pm.

Next meeting: December 8, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.