

Colorado School of Mines – Research Council Minutes
January 12, 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)	A	Tulay Flamand (EB)	P	Andrew Petruska (ME)	P	Emmanuel DeMoor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	A	Yilin Fan (PE)	P	Matthew Morgan (CGS)	P	Rennie Kaunda (MN)	P	Adrienne Kroepsch (HASS)
A	Thomas Monecke (GE)	A	Svitlana Pylypenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)	P	Jamal Rostami (UCT)
P	Mahadevan Ganesh (AMS)	P	Jeffrey Shragge (GP)	A	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)	A	Barb O’Kane (EHS)	A	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
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Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Yvette Kuiper

Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2021

Yvette Kuiper

MOTION: To approve the Research Council meeting minutes of December 8, 2021 by Kuiper, seconded by Kroepsch. 14 for, 1 abstention. APPROVED.

Committee Updates

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

The subcommittee is working on round two of the same model used in Fall 2021. Clarification was added on shared facilities; priority is based around facilities or labs with a large user base.

Research Council lecture series/Research Fusion

The second installment of the Research Council lecture series will take place Spring 2022 featuring Robert Braun (ME); location and time details have not been established.

The Research Fusion event went well with a majority of attendance online; committee noted that there was a decrease in communication due to a large number of online attendees. The committee will also consider focused themes for the future of Research Fusion events. Spring 2022 will have an event. Ideas for themes were requested from Councilors.

Excellence in Research Awards

All nominations have been received with a total of six junior nominations and five senior nominations; there is an even spread of departments within the submissions. The rubric will be reviewed by the committee should there be any changes needed. The committee will then discuss the rankings and request external letters for the top three in each junior and senior category. Once a recommendation has been made, between late February and early March, the Board of Trustees will be notified.

Research Communications

The committee last met in December 2021 and reviewed a program or mechanisms to share research and facilities on campus for collaboration. The committee considered the use of Workday; feedback concluded the program did not fit for the project. The committee will consider the use of Mines' Facility Online Manager (FOM) which would provide landing platforms for various groups to organize research topics and equipment.

The committee plans to meet on 1/19 with the RTT office.

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

The committee had drafted a proposal of what all titles and definitions should be and intended presentation to Human Resources. Monecke presented to the RTT office staff meeting where the Deans and Eagan were present. There has been consideration for formation of a larger committee that would address this issue and the integration of Equal Work for Equal Pay in definitions and roles. The committee will look in continuation of its efforts or dissolving to take part in the larger committee's role. The drafted proposal presentation has been stalled.

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

A survey Excel sheet has been sent to departments containing recorded available equipment; the department heads are provided with the document to make updates on equipment. This document had been approved by the department heads following a meeting with Kaufman.

Graduate Stipends

The committee had reached the general consensus that graduate students should be paid better and concluded that Graduate Council should be part of the discussion and have confirmed willingness to form a join committee. Kroepsch requested ideas for the goals of the join committee and provided a data question that will identify compared peer institutions and how graduate students are being paid more; committee may consider a work study student to do the comparative analysis.

Councilor noted there is significant variability across departments on campus and it would be helpful to understand how university resources could be used in the short-term to benefit students. Councilor commented on Mines becoming a leader in this area and improving graduate students choosing Mines and remaining competitive. Councilor made note of legal citizenship and residency issues worth considering in the committee.

The committee's goal would be understanding where the money will come from, what is known of Mines' current stipends and department stipends, and the difference between Mines and other institutions' graduate student stipends.

High-Performance Computing

The committee met in the second half of Fall 2021 where an ad hoc committee had been formed with three represented groups: HPC administrators, HPC users, and central administration. Three group meetings were held. The first meeting reviewed policies and why Mines is not in compliance with federal statutes. The second meeting considered a range of possible solutions. The third meeting evaluated the possible solutions, the pros and cons, and the best means of moving forward in the long term.

A subcommittee met over the holiday break to sort through transition details and equitable ways of support for those that have purchased nodes.

A recommendation will be brought to the central administration to receive feedback and once complete will be disseminated to the HPC community for comments and feedback. The committee expects a mid-semester outline presentation to Research Council.

Mentoring

The committee had discussed means of centralizing information and the future of the committee. Trailhead features mentoring efforts alongside each department having mentoring and dean-level mentoring available. The committee can finalize a guideline document that can serve as a centralized information tool.

Councilor suggested a global or institutional website managed by the school to provide all mentoring information in one place.

Mines Research Incentive Plan

Information was collected from UC Riverside which the Mines plan is built on; specific differences will be identified.

The documentation and process for the incentive plan is onerous and restrictive. Document submissions are reviewed by ORA, where objections can be raised. Human Resources can provide legal reasons for the plan's structure and identify legal limitations of any changes. The committee will identify means of simplifying the process and provide a model that has come from faculty and the Research Council.

Mines Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee

The committee will meet on Friday, 1/14 to identify members of the committee and how the committee will move forward.

Other Business

Yvette Kuiper

Councilor brought forward discussion of university R1 and R2 efforts and Mines' qualifications. Faculty have expressed interest in what is necessary for R1/R2 status. In order to qualify Mines' would require an increase in graduate students in residential programs and comprehensive departments including languages and social sciences. Councilor noted information on qualifications being provided to faculty would assist in educating in the process. Status would not be achievable in the near future.

Adjourn

Yvette Kuiper

Meeting adjourned: 2:58 pm.

Next meeting: February 9, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.