

Colorado School of Mines – Research Council Minutes
 March 9, 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)	A	Rennie Kaunda (MN)	P	Adrienne Kroepsch (HASS)
P	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)	P	Jim Simmons (GP)	P	John Spear (CEE)	A	Kenneth “Xerxes” Steirer (EREP)
A	Eric Toberer (MS/PH)	P	Sumit Agarwal (CBE)	P	Mehmet Belviranli (CS)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)		

Non-Voting Members:

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

Welcome

Yvette Kuiper

Approval of the Minutes – February 9, 2022

Yvette Kuiper

MOTION: To approve the Research Council Minutes of February 9, 2022 by Kuiper, seconded by Petruska. 13 for, 1 abstention.

Excellence in Research Awards

Yvette Kuiper

Committee received four senior and seven junior nominations; three junior nominators were asked to provide external letters. Nominators were asked how nominees were doing within their departments, and external letters provided information on field work. Final recommendation for junior and senior awardee was announced to Council.

- **Question** on the process of the committee and how Council will vote without information on the nominees; the nominee information was uploaded to Canvas but was not announced to Council.

Various aspects were assessed including funding, papers, impact of nominee papers, and recognition and awards. In the past, teaching and service was assessed but this is no longer done. The senior nominee stood out due to large research group and lab size; the junior nominee stood out due to large publications and research funding alongside recognition and awards.

- **Question** on how junior and senior are defined; junior is defined as less than ten years of self-directed research following PhD and post-doc and the senior definition is more than those ten years.
- **Question** on assistant and associate awards; Kuiper noted that this had been discussed by Council in the past and some variables included differences in industry background and changes in professorial jobs.

Council noted that the larger group can assess the process of the committee as a whole to ensure a fair system was used.

Suggestion was made to provide a brief overview of the process and proposed winners to Council prior to vote, in the future. Suggestion made to assess the award categories of junior and senior and consider a wider proposition of awards. Councilor noted the committee can be more proactive in the process and provide the questions to nominators and nominees ahead of time.

- **Question** on the deadline for the awards; the award process begins in December with nominations assessed by March and venerated by Council and Faculty Senate prior to the April Awards Ceremony.

Committee will draft a small informational slide on the process for Council.

MOTION: To endorse the selection of the Excellence in Research Awards committee with the understanding that due process was followed by Rostami, seconded by Petruska. 16 for, 1 abstention.

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

In Fall 2021, the committee received nine submissions. In Spring 2022, only two submissions were received. Councilor made note that this may have been due to lack of advertising.

- **Question** if the money would roll over should the two submissions not be selected; the money for the REI program would roll over for the next round of submissions. The committee decided to fund the two proposals submitted for Spring 2022.
- **Question** on how these requests compared to the Fall 2021; the committee did not compare the submissions and noted every submission would be compared to the submissions of that round.

Committee noted that the Fall 2021 submissions came from a diverse selection of departments and people. Committee decided to draft a document for the Research Technology and Transfer (RTT) office on what was learned in these two rounds of funding.

The selected projects to be funded were:

- Composite Core Holder for NMR/MRI and X-Ray Imaging (\$22,700) from PI Kurt Livo (GP) and Co-PI Manika Prasad (GP)
- A Robust Multi-Drone Testbed (\$25,702) from PI Qi Han (CS)

MOTION: To endorse the selection of the Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI) committee with the understanding that due process was followed by Kuiper, seconded by Rostami. 17 for, 1 abstention.

Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

Jamal Rostami

Rostami requested Council add both the second Research Council Lecture Series and Research Fusion to Councilors' calendars. The Research Council Lecture with Dr. Robert Braun will be hosted March 31, 2022 from 3:00-4:00 pm ([click here for more information](#)).

The Research Fusion will be hosted on April 20, 2022 from 12:00-1:30 pm in the McNeil Room in Lockridge Arena. Committee to work with Sodexo for a light lunch.

Councilors encouraged to advocate for the event within departments. The Research Fusion event to provide ten, five-minute presentations ([click here to signup](#)).

Strategic Instrumentation and Space

Yvette Kuiper

All but one space inventory survey has been received from departments; the inventory results were submitted to the RTT office. Departments were asked to form a department research committee which could consist of several items among a department strategic space instrumentation plan. The plan would enable departments to have a say on how space is used. Voluntary submission of these strategic plans was asked for March 4 but submissions have not been received.

Several faculty space requests were diverted to department heads. Feedback provided on the different format of the inventory survey which caused additional effort.

Comment made on the space needs discussion being pertinent to department heads; the committee arose for two reasons: growing frustration regarding space on campus for new and returning faculty and the need to use space more efficiently, VPRTT asked Research Council to consider the space discussion. It was noted there was concern for around twenty-seven new hires and where these faculty will go.

Kuiper noted that the committee would provide faculty with efficient ways to use space. Councilor noted that departments, every year, communicate with capital planning on space; Councilor suggested the committee work on best practices and suggestions for administration. Councilor noted if Research Council provided recommendations a benchmark or metric for department heads could be beneficial to determine space needs.

Effects of COVID on Junior Faculty

Yvette Kuiper

Mike McGuirk presented on the effects of COVID on junior faculty during the 3/8 Faculty Senate meeting. It was noted pre-tenure faculty have an extra year added to the tenure clock but several faculty have run out of startup funds, experienced decrease in student productivity, and other struggles. McGuirk presented Faculty Senate with other institution examples of a grant mechanism for faculty to apply for additional funding to support students and other needs. Senate had approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to address these concerns. Councilor made note of fairness if an internal grant mechanism is used

Comment made on providing the percent of faculty provided the additional year and how it is being utilized.

Councilors provided anecdotes. Councilor made note of a university-wide deficit in the ability to handle gap funding for researchers. Councilor raised concern on making junior and senior faculty effects similar and commented on the precarious situation tenure-track faculty are in.

Suggestion made to provide a section on COVID impacts for evaluations and tenure dossier; Councilor noted lack of assessment on the COVID-19 pandemic impact on careers. Councilor noted the positivity from administration on production of grants and proposals and the danger it may pose to those unable to remain as productive during that time.

Other Committee Updates

Tabled.

Research Council Long Term Plans

Tabled.

Yvette Kuiper

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned: 3:10 pm.

Next meeting: April 13, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.

Yvette Kuiper