

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MINUTES  
 January 4, 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom

**Attendees:**

**Voting Members:** 24 total (13 needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Sid Saleh (Chair)	P	Seth Vuletich (LB)	P	Tulay Flamand (EB)	P	Andrew Petruska (ME)	P	Emmanuel DeMoor (MME)
P	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Erdal Ozkan (PE)	A	Matthew Morgan (CGS)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)	A	Elizabeth Davis (HASS)
A	Thomas Monecke (GE)	P	Svitlana Pylypenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	P	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)	P	Jamal Rostami (UCT)
P	Steve Pankavich (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)	A	Stephen Thoemmes (GSG)	P	Barb O’Kane (EHS)	A	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
P	Liza Kinzel (RTT)								

**Special Guest(s):** Walt Copan (VPRTT)

**Welcome**

Sid Saleh

Faculty Entrepreneurship & Innovation Promotion Options

Saleh created a document for recommendations to provide Academic Affairs and the Provost on options to include E&I into P&T.

SCIFs and Security Clearance

Copan had asked Council to reach out to departments on SCIF and security clearance needs. Input had been provided from Mechanical Engineering.

Pre- and Post-Grants

Feedback received on grants. Post-grant process was given suggestions; suggestions had been shared with Copan. Copan noted the challenges are known. ORA and Mines have a partnership; it is recognized that additional resources are required. Eagan looking at staffing requirements. Additional feedback provided, Councilor noted billing and invoicing remains a challenge within ORA.

Physical Space Inventory

Effort from administration to develop a campus wide policy to look at all space, not only labs.

**RTT Update**

Walt Copan

Copan wished Councilors a happy new year.

Copan reported Mines will add a Director of Federal Relations and will be part of the Research and Technology Transfer (RTT) team. Position expected to provide more consistent outreach to federal funding agencies and members of Congress. The position has been filled by Andrew Lattanner. Lattanner was previously the executive director of the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center and dealt with workforce training in advanced manufacturing.

- **Question** on what this position may entail and if students will be engaged in learning policy matters; Copan noted this had been a topic of discussion with candidates for the role in engagement with undergraduate and graduate students on policy-related matters. Payne Institute had been part of the interview process. The position's main role would be to raise Mines' reputation with members of Congress and key committees that have oversight for science and technology including the Senate and House, and Energy and Natural Resources committees. Individual would complement current outreach with key federal funding agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of Interior, Department of Energy, National Science Foundation; increasingly, the National Institutes of Health, Department of Transportation, other areas of the Department of Commerce and more.

The position would assist Mines in a consistent focus on strategic priorities in Washington, D.C.

Research Advisory Board looking at how to better provide support for the research enterprise across the university; Board to investigate how to create better constructive collaboration across departments and centers, better marketing; and providing a pool of research support resources for research administration, technical support, and technicians within laboratories.

Copan noted feedback is still sought on the Mine Research Incentive Program (MRIP).

Copan reported on a request for proposals for support of major proposals; \$5 million and up, multi-institutional where major project management may be required. McAllister & Quinn has been selected as a partner.

Call for proposals from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Innovation Engines; Mines part of a team with the state of Colorado and state of Wyoming for a new coalition for innovation and research sponsorship. Mines in the last stages of preparing collaborative proposal with other major research universities in Colorado and Wyoming.

Department of Energy has selected four-state hydrogen hub submission to move to the next level. Copan noted this may be an important role for universities to support the workforce development initiatives for the hydrogen economy as well as direct technical engagement in the industry partners in the four states include Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico.

**Approval of Minutes** – December 7, 2022

Sid Saleh

**MOTION:** To approve the Research Council minutes of December 7, 2022 by De Moor, seconded by Petruska. Motion passed unanimously.

### **RC Updates**

Sid Saleh

#### Graduate Stipends Increase

A graduate stipends increase had been presented to Graduate Council by Tim Barbari; the increase had been endorsed by Graduate Council, Faculty Senate awaits Research Council's endorsement prior to placing a vote.

Councilor noted that graduate students raised issue of growing issue with lack of housing; Councilor added the issue of public transportation not being ideal for students commuting.

Councilor noted it would be beneficial to have systems in place to continue assessing the cost-of-living situation that students are experiencing. Councilor noted that faculty, especially younger faculty, had been impacted by COVID and did not experience a rise in salaries. The inflation rate increase affected young researchers.

- **Question** on what the administration plans to do to partially offset the cost of RA increases to relieve some burden from faculty, especially those with federal funds, to make room for the increase; Copan noted this would be an issue that requires careful planning to ensure it is implemented in a way that makes sense. Several proposals being assessed by OGS on how to handle the tuition burden and a percentage strategy that would enable total grant budgets to be managed appropriately.

Copan suggested representation from AA, Finance, and others to develop an action plan and proposals for resolving issues with federal lab partners.

- **Question** on Equal Pay for Equal Work and if changes are expected for Spring 2023; Copan reported the Equal Pay for Equal Work is a work in progress. HR in the next phases of analysis. Copan suggested a report from HR on the progress to Council.

**MOTION:** To suspend the endorsement of the proposed graduate stipends increase by Petruska, seconded by Shragge. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Updates**

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

Sid Saleh

Committee had completed selection and processing and selected three awardees. There were fourteen applicants that requested over \$220,000; the grant had only been provided \$40,000. Copan and RTT had agreed to add \$20,000 to the budget for grants. The Spring 2023 call will provide \$60,000.

Finalists were assessed on eligible criteria and who had the most potential for impact using that money for their research.

Alex Dixon had requested \$29,992, Garrison Hommer and Nathan Fennell requested \$7,689, and Derrick Chambers and Eileen R. Martin requested \$5,408.

**MOTION:** To approve the committee's recommendation for the Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI) grant awards Steirer, seconded by De Moor. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Research Council Lecture Series/Research Fusion

Jamal Rostami

Committee plans for two events, one Research Fusion. An email had been distributed to committee members to consider dates for mid-February and lecture in mid-April on a Wednesday for lunch. Rostami asked faculty to be proactive on the Research Fusion and participation.

Spring 2023 Research Council lecture will be hosted by Thomas Williams.

To implement E&I into the Research Fusion, Rostami suggested faculty record a five-minute presentation that can be uploaded to the Council website for distribution. Other faculty and industry

representatives can have access and understand what is being done on campus for a collaborative effort.

High-Performance Computing

Jeffrey Shragge

Tabled for 2/1 meeting. Shragge would like ITS to be a part of the discussion.

MRIP

Sumit Agarwal

At the previous Council meeting, Council discussed areas in which MRIP did not allow grants including technical service agreements and industry gifts. A memo would be drafted and brought to Council.

**Adjourn**

Sid Saleh

Meeting adjourned: 3:00 pm.

Next meeting: February 1 from 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.