

Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MINUTES
 April 5, 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 De Moor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Erdal Ozkan (PE)	P	Matthew Morgan (CGS)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)	P	Kathleen Hancock (HASS)
P	Thomas Monecke (GE)	A	Svitlana Pylypenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	A	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)	P	Jonathan Diller (GSG)	P	Barb O’Kane (EHS)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
A	Liza Kinzel (RTT)								

Special Guest(s):

Welcome

Sid Saleh

Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2023

Sid Saleh

MOTION: To approve the Research Council minutes of March 1, 2023 by Vuletich, seconded by Spear. Eleven (11) for, zero against, and two (2) abstentions.

Research Council Updates

Sid Saleh

Saleh reported Tim Barbari would present on graduate stipend increases at a future meeting. Councilor noted the policy goes into effect for 2023-2024 and there was disappointment in enacting a new policy without addressing concerns. Councilor noted students had heard about the increase while several faculty are processing student contracts; there may be an issue of two classes of students with differing contracts. Saleh recommended calling an earlier meeting to address the stipend increase. Councilor noted many departments have limited funds and students may fall off contracts; Council confirmed the issue was larger than the body. Councilor recommended administration distribute communications across faculty rather than to smaller groups on campus.

Council recommended bringing the issue to Faculty Senate for guidance from the administration and a timeline on the decision from a contract standpoint.

Committee Updates

Excellence in Research

Seth Vuletich

Vuletich reported the senior and junior awardees were presented to Academic Affairs and the Provost’s Office. The senior awardee was Amy Clarke, and the junior awardee was Matthew Siegfried. The awards would be presented at the faculty awards ceremony later in April

Research Council Lecture Series/Fusion

Tulay Flamand

Flamand reported the next Research Council lecture would be 4/10 in the Student Center, Ballrooms D and E from noon to 1pm. Councilors and colleagues were encouraged to attend; the invitation was extended to graduate students and post-docs. Dr. Tom Williams would present.

Small Research Equipment/Instrumentation Investment (REI)

Sid Saleh

Saleh reported the committee had met. Five applicants were received, one of which did not qualify. The amounts were such that all funds could be offered; applicants were asked to make changes to cost sharing and resubmit. Three of the four qualifying applicants resubmitted applications. The committee expected to meet to review and plan to distribute awards.

Research Instrumentation

Xerxes Steirer

No updates.

High-Performance Computing (HPC)

Jeffrey Shragge

Shragge noted the HPC plans were presented to Council two months ago on moving the Wendian Cluster from a capital expenditure (CapEx) investment to an operative expense (OpEx) per cycle charge to become compliant with federal statutes. Implementation had moved forward as of 4/1. Shragge reported the HPC group met with several users and Matt Ketterling. Concerns had been raised regarding projects underway that did not expect to have funding for computing. The group then met with the RTT office to make them aware of the concerns. RTT working on a pathway for those with shortfalls in funding HPC. Shragge encouraged reaching out to Ketterling for departmental HPC-related concerns.

Graduate Stipends

Andrew Petruska

No updates.

Research Mentoring

John Spear

Spear reported a presentation was in the works. No further updates.

Mines Research Incentive Program

Sumit Agarwal

Agarwal reported the program is under review following a complaint filed to Human Resources for unfair labor practices. The committee could not proceed further until HR reached a decision.

Council attendee requested additional information on the unfair labor complaint; Agarwal reported the individual did not wish to share their name and the details were not released.

Other Business & Announcements

Comment made on decision-making processes being slowed or halted and if there had been a trend growing that effected research; Councilor reported having not experienced any slowing in research areas.

Lab Coordinators – Hourly Contracts

Councilor reported some lab managers had been reclassified to hourly contracts and departments were discussing the change, some coordinators reported dissatisfaction with the change. Councilor noted the change was counterproductive to research. Lab managers were working overtime, the change allowed work between 8am to 6pm with approval needed from the department before working overtime. Council requested additional information to confirm the change. Councilor suggested informal opinion survey from lab coordinators on the change. Additional information was requested for further Council discussion.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned: 2:30 pm.

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

Sid Saleh