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

Attendees:
Voting Members: 24 total (13 needed for quorum). Quorum was not present.

A	Sid Saleh (Chair)	P	Seth Vuletich (LB)	A	Tulay Flamand (EB)	P	*Andrew Petruska (ME) proxy chair	A	Emmanuel De Moor (MME)
A	Mark Deinert (NSE)	P	Erdal Ozkan (PE)	A	Matthew Morgan (CGS)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)	A	Kathleen Hancock (HASS)
P	Thomas Monecke (GE)	A	Svitlana Pylypenko (CH)	A	Jim Ranville (GC)	A	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)	A	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	Jonathan Diller (GSG)	A	Barb O'Kane (EHS)	P	Emmelia Ashton (USG)
A	Liza Kinzel (RTT)								

Special Guest(s): Tim Barbari (OGS), Scot Allen (EDS), Bettina Voelker (CH)

Welcome   Andrew Petruska
Petruska volunteered to chair the 5/3 meeting for Saleh.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)   Scot Allen
Mines' commitment to research security, integrity and safety letter
Policy for Research Integrity and Procedures for Addressing Research Misconduct
Allen informed Councilors of a group of faculty and upper administration reviewing education and training for responsible and ethical conduct of research. Allen noted training is required by federal agencies; the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have updated requirements for those receiving research funding. Education and training should address students, postdocs, and faculty.

Information on training and education was compared and addressed by groups on campus; Allen noted there is a group within the Research and Technology Transfer (RTT) called the Research Integrity and Security committee (RISC). Feedback through a survey was provided to the department head council on options for training.

Allen reported the option of an online training through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program; all graduate students may take SYGN502 is availability allows, departments may have their own courses in research ethics as part of their curriculum, as well. An additional option would include direct conversations between PIs, students, and/or new postdocs. Allen noted an option of creating a series of workshops or seminars

- **Question** on selecting CITI for training; the group addressing RCR had investigated past contracts with CITI and found the institution had not contracted the group. CITI is inexpensive and other major universities use the service, as well. CITI offers a range of training; Allen reported being

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open to other means of delivering training. RISC considered the possibility of Mines' developing its own content.

- **Question** if the CITI training covers the full NSF and NIH requirements; the CITI training provides a baseline of information for all students and satisfies requirements for all other research sponsors. NSF and NIH-funded students over the last three years amount to $30 million out of around $100 million in awards from the combined sources. Allen reported the training misses the face-to-face requirement.

Councilor noted graduate students' bandwidth is limited and the addition of a required training during the semester could negatively impact students.

- **Question** on time needed for the training and if there would be an impact on productivity and students' education; Allen reported the CITI training is between four and five hours. The SYGN502 course is available to any discipline, is one credit and meets once a week for eight weeks. The CITI and SYGN502 course were designed with limited bandwidth in mind.
- **Question** if there are better options outside of CITI; Allen reported on discussion of developing an online course tailored around Mines. RISC spoke on alternatives and home developed content but noted the limited bandwidth of faculty maintaining and managing the process.

Councilor asked Allen to consider the impact on fully online programs and interdisciplinary programs impacted by the requirement of a face-to-face component.

Barbari reported an increase in NIH funding with between three and four pre-doc fellows; Barbari confirmed NIH funded students are required to take face-to-face RCR training as online is not considered sufficient. The Catalog had been updated to list NIH for 2023-2024.

Graduate Stipends Increase   Tim Barbari

Barbari reported on the minimum graduate stipend increase; an increase to $32,000 was approved and had been done quickly, Barbari noted the change had caused anxiety amongst faculty supporting students on research grants. Competitors increase to $32,000 and above. Barbari reported Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE) looked to increase to $35,000 for 2024-2025 to remain in competition with the high cost of living and competitors.

Barbari reported on the current solution. Research development (RD) and roll forward accounts sitting within academic affairs (AA) would be assessed; Barbari noted an institutional solution would not be available. Some departments have substantial RD accounts that solve current issues, while others do not. The portfolio deans had been tasked with reaching out by individual PIs for fall and spring within individual departments. Barbari reported both portfolios are between $700-800,000 with Earth and Society programs at the highest. DH should report to the portfolio dean to reach solutions; some may require Provost assistance.

Barbari reported work being done on future budget projections, but nothing has been finalized.

Councilor noted graduate students are charged tuition to work at the university; Councilor recommended exploring tuition dollars covering stipends. Councilor voiced concerns regarding an institutional decision impacting faculty RD accounts. Barbari noted tuition is direct revenue of the

institution. Barbari reported the cost of grants for a student at Mines is among the highest in the country due to tuition recovery.

Barbari reported a taskforce would be created to look over how the institution charges graduate tuition and includes tuition recovery on grants.

Councilor noted that concerns from faculty had been unheard and there were concerns amongst researchers.

Barbari reported on discussions to increase online enrollments including increasing the number of non-service fellowships.

Adjourn   Andrew Petruska
Meeting adjourned: 3:02 pm.
Next meeting: August 2023.