Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Hill Hall 300

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Attendees:
Voting Members: 18 total (12 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

X	Mark Eberhart (Chair)		Joice Hu	X	James Simmons (GP)		Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)
	Hussein Amery (HASS)	X	Yvette Kuiper (GE)		John Spear (CEE)	X	Seth Vuletich (LB)
	Mark Deinert (ME)	X	Annalise Maughan (CH)		Kenneth Steirer (PH)	X	Mike Wakin (EE)
X	Diego Gomez-Gauldron (CBE)	X	Erdal Ozkan (PE)		Eric Toberer (PH)	X	Zhexuan Gong (PH)
	Elizabeth Holley (MN)	X	Emmanuel De Moor (MME)	X	Steve Pankavich (AMS)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

X	Lisa Kinzel (RTT)		Carson Snow (USG)		Barbara O'Kane (EHS)

Special Guest(s): Mike Kaufman

Welcome   Mark Eberhart

Approval of Minutes – February 7, 2024
MOTION: The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was moved by S. Pankavich and seconded by Seth V. The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was approved unanimously with zero opposed and zero abstentions.

Subcommittee updates (5 min)
Research Instrumentation Awards   Mark Eberhart
M. Eberhart shared that 14 REI proposals have been received. Two fell outside of the boundaries of eligibility. The committee will start reviews soon.
- **Question:** M. Eberhart asked for clarification on how proposals were presented in the past in the Research Council. Does it require discussion with the Council, or does the Council just vote on the recommendations forwarded by the committee?
- **Answer:** Y. Kuiper answered that in the past, the Council would vote on the recommendations.

Lecture Series   Steve Pankavich
Food has been ordered, the room has been booked, and prizes have been purchased. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Research Lecture and Research Fusion switched dates. Research Lecture will be held on March 13th and Research Fusion will be held on April 1st. So far, the committee has received 40 confirmations which is an all-time high. RSVP is still open so the committee may change the headcount to 45. Research Fusion has only received one presentation, so S. Pankavich asked the councilors to encourage others to sign up. The committee has set the current headcount for this event to 30. S. Pankavich will send out the flyer via email to help spread the word.
- **Comment:** E. Ozkan mentioned that he has two faculty members in mind that he will reach out to.

Visitor Presentation
HPC vision and future   Matt Ketterling
M. Eberhart let the council know that Matt had to reschedule his visitor presentation until he had additional discussion with Walt and Andrew Moore. He expressed concern that it seemed like the Research Council cannot receive answers with it going through multiple channels.
- **Comment:** Z. Gong mentioned that Matt and Kira have reached out to solicit opinions in each

department regarding the current usage model and its sustainability.
- **Comment:** E. Ozkan mentioned that he had a meeting with Kira to discuss commitment of faculty (7+ years).
- **Comment:** M. Eberhart reiterated that the Research Council is seeking answers regarding how decisions are made and who they are receiving input from. Why is the Research Council not included in these decisions?

Y. Kuiper mentioned that the committee that was formed during the prior meeting with RTT/Scot met for discussion regarding the text on research integrity which currently housed in the Handbook being moved to the Procedures Manual. They want to move it since the Handbook is only changed once a year, so any edits take a long time to process. The Procedures Manual is a better place to store this information and is more efficient if changes need to be made. The Handbook is currently run by Academic Affairs who are also encouraging that this information be removed from the Handbook and managed by RTT.
- **Comment:** M. Eberhart raised the question of whether a committee made up of RTT and RC can be formed to manage this section in the Procedures Manual. What are the steps to getting this formed?
- **Comment:** S. Vuletich suggested that getting a committee formed would require Faculty Senate approval.
- **Comment**: M. Eberhart mentioned that he will bring this up at the next Faculty Senate meeting and requested that Y. Kuiper and S. Vuletich join as well.

Research Advisory Board Activities   Mike Kaufman
M. Kaufman presented that the goal of the Research Advisory Board is to be more strategic beyond Mines@150 and welcomed feedback from the Research Council. The following activities are in progress to reach this goal:

Mines Pillars (launched in January 2024): establish focus areas and Mines research network. RAB is preparing shared funding and services model for research support to launch FY2025 to purposefully shape future Mines research through distinctive research themes and major interdisciplinary initiatives. These will position Mines with world-class leadership for initiatives, secure major funds, and establish impactful relationships. After some conversation, the Pillars now reflect all of research on campus and what faculty are doing but does not necessarily reflect what Mines should be known for in this future. RTT wants to be at the forefront of this effort to establish future Mines goals. Past cluster hires were meant to be strategic investments, but they were too top-down, and the strategy was unclear for the most part/failed to produce the desired results. There is an urgent need for a concerted approach to be truly strategic. Not top-down, not bottom-up (lacks overall strategy), but RTT and AA working together.

RTT feels Mines needs to look strategically beyond Mines@150 and ask the following: how do we identify research areas (external inputs, inputs form Mines stakeholders) and challenge the campus to excel in these selected areas? How do we engage with campus and provide support? How do we achieve excellence in these areas given our already existing expertise and resources? What additional investments are needed? To start, critical needs of research areas through startup funding and hiring of faculty needs to be identified. Most importantly, this process needs to be collaborative with a consistent message across campus.

The process includes:
1. Create Mines Steering Committee as an RTT/AA partnership. This currently consists of Mike

(chair), Andrew, and Jen to represent RTT and Fred, Kamini, and RAB members to represent AA. PCJ is onboard and supportive, so we are in a good position with broad approval of the concept.

2. Identify Mines Distinctive Research Themes (DRT) through charging the Steering Committee with an inclusive process of developing long-term (5-10 years) broad topic area. The DRTs could and should become globally recognized with the goal of achieving momentum within 2-5 years by collecting early inputs and confirming broad consensus. Christine Homer and Steve Enders will hold ideation exercises/workshops to facilitate discussion which is scheduled for March/April.

3. Establish process to proposed initiatives that fit the DRT. Create RFP with clear and appropriate guidelines about scope, budgetary constraints, and schedule. Provide opportunity for RTT seed funding to support proposal writing and partnership development. Identify leadership, facilities, and development requirements for proposed Mines initiatives to succeed (leadership/faculty hiring strategy, funding strategy). The RAB subcommittee has a working document and regular meetings. Support of proposals by DHs and deans will likely be required. The timeline for the first call is unclear as of now.

4. Review process which includes establishing a review committee (Walt, Mike, invited experts, Rick, deans, and associate deans), initial selection, then finalist proposals are sent to external reviewers to receive feedback, communicate final selection to the Exec team, communicate to winners. RTT feels this is the most engaging process. So far, RTT and AA commitments are needed. Discussions are in process.

5. Implementation and Management – RTT will work with initiative leads and AA will work with departments to overlay strategic hiring proposals. RTT will manage process of regular review, reporting, and initiative communications to secure ongoing external funding. Discussions are ongoing to set aside funding.

How can RTT engage RC to help?
1. Work collaboratively to refine/evolve the process.
2. Explain and support the process in your department (spokesperson).
3. Engage with campus as RTT identifies the DRTs.
4. Strategize with your department and colleagues to identify strategic initiative proposals. Bottom line is we want to get this right, and we are open to your input and suggestions. Please reach out to Mike.

- **Question:** M. Eberhart asked how far ahead is RTT thinking? What would be the performance objectives that will signify that Mines is known?
- **Answer:** M. Kaufman answered RTT thinks strategically 5-10+ years ahead. RTT has not defined any performance objectives yet but envisions large funding opportunities and notable expertise that attracts students.

- **Question:** Y. Kuiper asked if representatives from the Research Council or faculty members can be added to the committees.
- **Answer:** M. Kaufman answered that RTT is seeking sufficient representation from departments but is trying to figure out a strategy to do that.

M. Eberhart announced that at the next meeting, the Research Council will begin to put a proposal in place to present to the Faculty Senate on how the Research Council can be more involved and will include collaboration with RTT as an item. He asked for feedback. Everyone present agreed that this would be a good strategy.

Adjourn
Next meeting: April 3, 2:00-3:00 pm Hill Hall 300.