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

Attendees:
Voting Members: 13 total (10 - majority needed for quorum). Quorum was present.

P	Shubham Vyas (Chair)	P	Mike Wakin (EE)	P	Elizabeth Reddy (EDS)
P	Samy Wu Fung (AMS)		Emmanuel De Moor (MME)		Eric Toberer (PH)
P	Diego Gomez-Gualdron (CBE)		Mark Deinert (ME)		James Simmons (GP)
P	Annalise Maughan (CH)	P	Patricia Andersen (LB)		Xhexuan Gong (PH)
P	Timm Strathmann (CEE)	P	Erdal Ozkan (PE)		
	Maxwell Brown (EB)		Kun Zhang (MN)		
P	Hussein Amery (HASS)	P	Eric Roberts (GE)		

Other Regular Attendees and Guests

	Barb O'Kane		Lisa Kinzel (RTT)		Runeem Al Abssi (USG)
	Ellie Miller (GSG)		Kristeen Serracino (AA)	P	Nichole Bigley (AA)

Special Guest(s): Galen Dennis (GSG)

Welcome and Senate Updates Shubham Vyas

Motion: The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was moved by T. Strathmann and seconded by E. Roberts. The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

Budget Committee update – the budget presented at the last meeting was not complete because Mines was waiting on the State budget (anticipated a major cut). However, the Governor's proposed budget had higher education with more funding compared to last year in lieu of a budget cut. As a result, budget approval by the BoT is being pushed to the end of May. The Governor also announced a 2.5% raise for classified employees. Typically, Mines follows suit, but this has not yet been discussed. Until budget projections are approved, there will be pauses on small construction projects on campus. However, larger projects such as the Sophomore housing and parking garage are still moving forward.

Faculty Senate update - five senators will rotate out. S. Vyas encouraged the Council to run for the new Senate elections for next year or forward any names of interested individuals. The Senate discussed the proposed Handbook changes. All faculty should have received an email with the listed changes. There is a 30-day window to respond and make suggestions. Major changes include changes to the faculty grievance process and changes to the IP policy. The Senate is no longer meeting the BoT at their April meeting due to lack of room on the agenda. An additional discussion within Senate was about the IDA and sabbatical denials. All IDAs and a large portion of sabbatical were denied. This has been a big issue especially for the teaching faculty who were promised sabbaticals last year and has not been good for overall campus morale. Additionally, denials were not communicated in the most suitable way (brief email with the only reasoning provided "due to budgetary restrictions"). Since IDAs do not require approval from the BoT and because there is an updated budget projection, can there be reconsideration to approve a few more teaching faculty IDAs?

New IDC model memo draft Shubham Vyas

The IDC model is still moving forward and will be implemented in July. S. Vyas suggested to the RAB to schedule town hall meetings to provide background information that led to this decision and engage the entire campus. The shared document from the Research Council provides constructive comments/suggestions on how the IDC model should work and needs to be drafted into a memo to give to Senate for endorsement. Please work on this during the week so that it can be given to the VPRTT office before the town hall meetings start and can be shared with Senate by April 15th.

Research Fusion Update Mike Wakin

The Research Fusion event will be held on April 15th at noon. There are 12 confirmed speakers and 40 RSVPs so far. The food order was changed from a buffet to sandwich boxes which helped cut down on the cost. Additional changes can be made if more RSVPs are received. Final numbers will be provided next week. D. Gomez-Gualdron will emcee the event. So far, both Deans and VPRTT have confirmed attendance. The President and Provost have not yet confirmed.

- **Comment:** S. Vyas added that it will be good to have the presentation order align with the Mines' research pillars, especially since the speakers were chosen based off the research pillars. There were quite a few questions regarding whether there would be a virtual option to attend. Due to logistics, this event will not have a virtual option. There were also questions regarding the new faculty flash talks scheduled for April 11th. The VPRTT office mentioned that this event was planned at the last minute and therefore didn't include the Research Council. For the future, this can be combined with the Research Fusion event.

REI Awards Update Eric Roberts

The REI subcommittee is in the review process. Individuals from VPRTT and equipment managers have also agreed to help review the submitted proposals. S. Vyas has had discussions with the Deans about securing additional funding. If the subcommittee has an idea of how many proposals they would like to fund, this will help in getting more funds.

- **Question:** E. Ozkan asked, is the REI awards considered an important achievement for promotion and tenure? Would it help to make it more advantageous by advertising better, or making it a more rigorous process, or come up with a publication to highlight faculty accomplishments?
- **Answer:** S. Vyas answered that the REI awards should carry weight for promotion and tenure but probably is not perceived as much compared to external funding.
- **Question:** Does the description of the award mention that it is competitive?
- **Answer:** It does not explicitly state that it is competitive but it is clear that there is only a small pool. It seems that for the number of proposals received there is only a small sum to award. Additionally, the one-page, very short proposal may play against what the Research Council is trying to accomplish. Maybe this can transition to a named award to secure more funding via alumni donation. Maybe the limit on the award could be increased. It may be

more prestigious if there are fewer winners. What is the intention of the award – to help with promotion and tenure/resume building or as a seed funding opportunity? Another way to increase the prestige of the award is to change the name to University REI or Mines REI.

- **Comment:** S. Vyas added that the REI award winners can possibly be announced at the Faculty Awards ceremony. He will confirm with Academic Affairs.

Research Excellence Awards Update Shubham Vyas

The Research Excellence Awards are all wrapped up via electronic vote last month. It has also been approved by the Senate. The award winners are now with Academic Affairs to order plaques.

Additional Discussion

- **Question:** Is there any update on the email from PCJ about not spending any discretionary money? It wasn't clear whether it was directed toward faculty or for the departments/centers.
- **Answer:** This applies to everyone (faculty, staff, and academic and non-academic departments) in case something catastrophic happens. For example, if the State decides to cut the budget significantly, financial aid still needs to be provided to students and meet enrollment targets or if there is a loss in federal grant money, department will need to be able to support students.
- **Question:** How are NIH grant submissions being handled?
- **Answer:** The answer received by VPRTT is the NIH IDC is still whatever the university is charging (51-52%).
- **Question:** With the new IDC model, how are IDC returns affected if research is off campus?
- **Answer:** Off campus research already has lower IDC and overheads costs so there are no IDC returns. With the new model, there won't be any change.

Adjourn Shubham Vyas

Next Meeting: May 7, 2025, in Hill Hall 300. Please send agenda items to svyas@mines.edu.