

## Colorado School of Mines – RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Hill Hall 300

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### 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)
	Samy Wu Fung (AMS)	P	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)		
P	Maxwell Brown (EB)	P	Kun Zhang (MN)		
P	Hussein Amery (HASS)	P	Eric Roberts (GE)		

### Other Regular Attendees and Guests

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

Special Guest(s):

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### Welcome and Senate Updates

Shubham Vyas

**Motion:** The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was moved and seconded. The motion to approve the previous meeting minutes was unanimously approved with zero opposition and zero abstentions.

Upcoming events - Research Fusion, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-1:30 pm. GRADS (Graduate Research and Discovery Symposium), April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. GSG is seeking volunteers to judge. The time commitment to be a GRADS judge is very flexible. Faculty Awards Ceremony, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:30-6:00 pm.

Senate Updates - The Faculty Senate has met twice since the last RC meeting. Most of these meetings were dedicated to approving curriculum changes but there was some extensive discussion on academic freedom and the varying communication circulating around campus. The provost stated that there is no push to change course content. If this does become law, the institution will respond accordingly to maintain compliance. The Senate agreed that a statement from President Johnson in a town hall meeting would be beneficial to faculty and students. Additionally, in the Fall, the Senate requested that salaries be posted and publicly shared in the library. Mines had the data displayed years ago but removed it. The Provost Office and Finance, Administration, and Operations Office are working to make this information available from Workday.

### Update on IDC return (Slides from Mike)

Shubham Vyas

M. Kauffman gave a presentation to the DH Council and Research Advisory Board about changing the IDC returns to create a focused pool of money to invest in strategic initiatives on campus. The presentation slides are available on the Research Council Canvas page. The plan is to implement the IDC return model structure on or around July 1<sup>st</sup>. With the proposed changes, VPRTT and the Deans would lose 1% and the department and PI would lose 1% to generate a research initiatives pool (~\$712,654) for topical workshops, travel, equipment/infrastructure, summer salary, etc. An

additional change is IDC returns will not go back to the centers but instead go back to the department. The Department Heads and center directors will work together to best utilize this money. There was concern that with the implementation date coming so soon, there was no announcement or opportunity to provide feedback sooner from RAB or Research Council. A memo from the Research Council will be drafted (endorsed by the Faculty Senate) to express disagreement and a possible alternative solution. The Council was encouraged to bring this discussion back to respective departments and DHs.

### **Research Fusion Update**

Mike Wakin

The Research Fusion event is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00-1:30 pm in Friedhoff Hall. The change to receive names from VPRTT and Deans worked well. 11 people have confirmed their talks with a few pending. The Research Fusion Committee is currently working on the event flyer which will be distributed soon. M. Wakin encouraged the Council to help spread awareness about the event on campus. The Faculty Senate approved a \$2,000 budget for this event. A request has been sent to VPRTT to help pay for the drinks served at the event and possibly the prizes. If VPRTT will not cover the prize cost, the Senate has approved to pick up that expense. If held in the Green Center, food/catering does not have to come from Sodexo so the committee will continue to search and price various options. S. Vyas suggested creating a tailored invitation to the Administration team (President, Provost, Deans, Associate Deans, VPRTT) to encourage broader participation.

### **REI Awards Update**

Eric Roberts

Only a few proposals were submitted before the deadline, so the deadline was extended by one week (March 7<sup>th</sup>). At that time, the committee will review these and announce winners in April. S. Vyas added that he will send out another announcement to encourage more submissions. Also, if more proposals are submitted, a request can be made for more funding from VPRTT/Deans. N. Bigley will provide information if there is any remaining balance from last year's REI awards.

### **Research Excellence Awards Update**

Shubham Vyas

Six nominations were received for the Junior Research Excellence Awards with a request for external letters. There was a delay in retrieving the external letters, but all have been received and added to the applications. Once all responses have been received, one to two names for each category will be shared with the Research Council (via electronic vote). These will then be presented to the Senate on March 11<sup>th</sup> for approval and given to Academic Affairs on March 14<sup>th</sup> to order plaques.

### **Adjourn**

Shubham Vyas

Next Meeting: April 2, 2025, in Hill Hall 300. Please send agenda items to [svyas@mines.edu](mailto:svyas@mines.edu).