

COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

DRAFT Minutes of the February 6, 2018 Annual Board Meeting

Vice Chairman Alan Rudolph called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

In attendance were Board members Robert Houser (University of Northern Colorado), Alan Rudolph (Colorado State University) and Kim Hunter Reed (Colorado Department of Higher Education); in attendance by telephone were Terri Fiez (University of Colorado) and Wendy Harrison (Colorado School of Mines). Also in attendance were Inta Morris (Secretary and Treasurer) and Lisa Kinzel (Colorado School of Mines).

Approval of February 27, 2017 minutes. The motion was made and seconded to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Board Chair. Alan Rudolph opened a discussion about the need to elect a Chair. He noted that practice to-date has been electing the CDHE Executive Director as chair. The motion was made and seconded to elect Dr. Kim Hunter Reed as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Update. Inta Morris reviewed the summary of the Authority's 2017 financial position. She noted that CHECRA began 2017 with \$4.1 million in the bank and ended the year with \$4.7 million. CHECRA made 6 disbursements totaling \$1.5 million. Not yet disbursed are 2017 payments to support Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) awards. The Board had agreed to provide up to \$500K to successful proposals in 2017; then in late 2017 members had deferred a decision on how much and how to allocate the funding to the meeting today.

Inta Morris also summarized the budget forecast, which shows anticipated expenses and income through 2019 based on current commitments. The only commitment that is still pending an award decision is CSU's proposal to the Department of Energy for an EERE award. Alan Rudolph said he would report back to the Board on the status of that project.

MRI Proposals. Board members discussed how to allocate funding to the three successful 2017 MRIs. Terri Fiez suggested funding CSU's award at the full 30% required match and splitting the remaining funds up to \$500K between CU and Mines. Board members discussed the possibility of reducing the amount provided for MRIs in 2017 in order to make more available in 2018, noting that some of the proposals that institutions have put forth in 2018 are significant. Members favored keeping the 2017 amount at \$500K, while recognizing that 2018 awards might get less.

Wendy Harrison noted that with proposed cuts to the renewable energy budget at the Department of Energy, board members should be mindful of possible implications to current and future awards. Alan Rudolph suggested that CHECRA do more to support collaboration among institutions – that is, encourage institutions to make instrumentation available to researchers at other institutions. He also suggested CHECRA take the lead on sharing information among institutions about how CHECRA funding is being used.

The motion was made and seconded to fund CSU's award (Acquisition of a Maskless Lithography System) at the full 30% required match of \$66,482 and to split the remaining funds

up to \$500K between CU's award (Acquisition of a 4D High-Resolution X-Ray Micro-Computer Tomography System) and Mines award (Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry).

ARPA-E Proposals. Alan Rudolph opened a discussion about ARPA-E proposals, reminding board members that they had declined to provide a cost share commitment to a School of Mines ARPA-E proposal in November 2017. Members restated their concerns that funding ARPA-E proposals would widen CHECRA's scope beyond the original intent of cost-shares for large NSF center awards (ERCs, STCs and MRSECs). While CHECRA has funded non-NSF awards in the past, members agreed that CHECRA should "stay the course" in cost-sharing for primarily large NSF awards.

Annual Report and Audit. Inta Morris said that CHECRA would undergo its annual audit and she expected no findings as has been the case every year. She also reminded board members that the annual report to the legislature is due March 1, 2018. Alan Rudolph asked whether the report received any attention. Inta Morris responded that while the Department had not done so in the past, this year staff planned to present a summary of the report to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to inform them about CHECRA and some of the research activities at the institutions.

Members briefly discussed the idea of a research day at the legislature to raise awareness among state legislators of the contributions of research to the state. Inta Morris said she would consult with the Department's legislative liaison, who in turn works with the institutions' legislative liaisons, on timing and other recommendations for such an event.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.