

COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

Minutes of the January 23, 2019 Annual Board Meeting

Vice Chairman Alan Rudolph called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

In attendance were Board members Alan Rudolph (Colorado State University) and Stefanie Tompkins (Colorado School of Mines); in attendance by telephone was Terri Fiez (University of Colorado). Also in attendance were Inta Morris (Secretary and Treasurer), Trisha Esquibel (Colorado Department of Higher Education Controller) and Spencer Ellis (Colorado Department of Higher Education staff).

Vice Chairman Alan Rudolph gave a brief introduction of CHECRA for new member Stefanie Tompkins. He said that the primary purpose of the annual meeting is to review the financials and discuss future proposals.

Approval of February 6, 2018 minutes. The motion was made and seconded to approve the February 6, 2018 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion about Appointed Board Member and Chair. Inta Morris noted that Robert Houser was no longer serving as Chief Research Officer (CRO) at the University of Northern Colorado and that she had reached out to the new CRO but had not yet received a response. She will follow up with the president on getting a UNC representative on the Board, as required by statute. She also explained that the 5th member of the board is appointed by the Governor. The governor has not yet appointed a replacement for Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, former executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). Dr. Reed had served as Chair of CHECRA, and so board members will have to elect a new chair. Board members had a brief discussion about whether to make any recommendations to the Governor about his appointed member; they agreed that it serves CHECRA well to have the executive director of CDHE. Inta Morris said she would make sure the executive director is willing to serve and make the recommendation to the governor's office.

Board members engaged in a brief discussion about the new administration and the board's interest in highlighting the importance of research to Colorado. Inta Morris will reach out to institution communications directors and legislative directors to get input on the idea of a "research day at the capitol."

Financial Update. Inta Morris reviewed the summary of the Authority's 2018 financial position and payments. She noted that 2018 was unusual in that there were no requests for new commitments. This is likely because there have been some programmatic reviews at NSF and thus delayed program announcements.

Alan Rudolph suggested that board members have another call in the coming months to review planned proposals for 2019 so that all board members have an idea of the level of commitment that will be sought from CHECRA.

Board members also asked that CDHE staff compile MRI awards from 2018 so that the board can make a decision on cost shares for those. They will also discuss anticipated MRI proposals for 2019.

Terri Fiez asked about CHECRA's policy on funding renewals – that is, STCs, as an example, are typically funded for 5 years and then renewed for 5 years. Does CHECRA fund the renewal years? Ina Morris offered to provide a list of past funding commitments for such awards so that the board can discuss. Ms. Morris noted that CHECRA has sought to make its funding criteria more specific over the past years, but had not yet addressed renewals directly.

Stefanie Tompkins asked whether CHECRA should talk about NRTs. Board members agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Annual Report and Audit. Ina 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. She and Spencer Ellis will follow up with institutions for their submissions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.