



COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

University of Colorado: Colorado State University: University of Northern Colorado: Colorado Schools of Mines: State of Colorado

Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 12, 2021

12:00 pm – 2:00pm

Via Zoom

- MINUTES -

Attending: Board members Alan Rudolph (CSU), Jeri Ann Lyons (UNC), Teri Fiez (CU), Stefanie Tompkins (Mines), and Angie Paccione (CDHE); DHE staff Inta Morris (Secretary/Treasurer); Trisha Esquibel, Spencer Ellis

I. Call to Order

Angie Paccione called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

II. Approval of minutes

Dr. Fiez moved to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2020 annual meeting; Dr. Tompkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fiez moved to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020 meeting; Dr. Tompkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Morris reminded board members that in February 2020 they had elected Dr. Paccione as Chair and Dr. Rudolph as Vice Chair; both are one-year terms under CHECRA bylaws. Dr. Fiez moved to elect Dr. Paccione Chair and Dr. Rudolph as Vice Chair for another year; Dr. Tompkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Annual Financial Update

Ms. Morris and CDHE Controller Trisha Esquibel reviewed the 2020 Financial Summary and the updated financial forecast. The financial summary shows that CHECRA began 2020 with \$6,082,091 in the bank and ended the year with \$3,704,256. Ms. Morris reminded board members that the legislature had taken action in 2020 to suspend payments to CHECRA for two years (due to the pandemic and ensuring financial challenges). Unless further action is taken, CHECRA will receive \$2.1 million from Limited Gaming Revenue for FY 21-22 in July 2022. The board noted that their individual government relations offices would be advocating for CHECRA.

Dr. Tompkins noted that the School of Mines may be terminating ReMADE, which would save CHECRA the \$200K currently allocated annually in the budget.

Board members discussed possible advocacy initiatives with the legislature, including a CHECRA or research day at the capitol; one-pagers provided to the key committee members; videos or podcasts that highlight specific projects; and participation in the “Three Minute Thesis” competition for graduate students sponsored by the Colorado Council of Graduate Schools.

CDHE staff agreed to develop a draft advocacy plan for Board members to consider in the coming weeks. Staff will review available content on institution websites, focusing on CHECRA-funded projects but including others as relevant; board members will provide examples of marketing pieces they already have on their research projects and will help with content.

V. Discussion

Process and Criteria for Website: Ms. Morris shared draft updated language for the website that describes the different categories of projects that CHECRA supports (traditional large centers; instrumentation grants; projects under consortia) and the approval process for each. That language, with the following clarifications, will be posted on the CHECRA website:

- MRIs are primarily from NSF but may come from other funding agencies as well;
- Criteria include the impact of the research

NAWI proposals/projects: Board members confirmed the three projects and amended cost-share amounts that had been approved in 2020. CDHE staff will make those payments. There are no additional approved projects at this time.

- CSU: \$38,446
- Mines: \$123,188
- CU: \$40,000

MRI awarded in 2020: Board members confirmed the following two MRI awards in 2020:

- University of Colorado Colorado Springs: Acquisition of a High Performance Computing Cluster for Next-Generation Computational Science in Southern Colorado
 - Cost share requested: \$186,526
- University of Colorado Boulder: Development of a Mobile High-speed Dual Frequency Comb Spectroscopy User Facility
 - Cost share requested: \$310,860

Dr. Rudolph motioned to provide cost shares for the two awards totaling 300K, proportional to the amount requested. Dr. Tompkins seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The following payments will be made:

- UCCS: 37.5% or \$112,500
- CU Boulder: 62.5% or 187,500

VI. Other Issues

Staff reminded board members that the annual audit is underway. Thank you to Dr. Tompkins for agreeing to represent the board with auditors. The annual report to the legislature is due March 1. Mr. Ellis reminded board members to submit reports by February 21 so that staff have time to prepare and submit the report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22pm.