



COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE RESEARCH AUTHORITY

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

Ad hoc Meeting of the Board of Directors

September 14, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Remote Only

- Minutes -

Attending: Board members Walter Copan (Mines), Teri Fiez (CU), Jeri-Anne Lyons (UNC), and Alan Rudolph, Vice Chair (CSU); Tricia Esquibel (CDHE), Ashlee Pate (CDHE), Chris Rasmussen (CDHE), and Meg Suter (CSU).

Chris Rasmussen, acting on behalf of Chair Angie Paccione, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He thanked CHECRA board members for their patience as the CDHE staff attempted to get up to speed following the departure of Spencer Ellis.

Vice Chair Alan Rudolph welcomed Walter Copan, the new vice president for research and technology transfer at Colorado School of Mines, to the CHECRA board. Alan provided a brief summary of the history of CHECRA and the function of the board, including the major categories of federal funding opportunities and requests that come to the board: Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program, Engineering Research Centers, Science and Technology Centers, and the National Alliance for Water Innovation. Alan also noted that with the case of NAWI, he is aware that applicants are being advised that their proposals would be more favorably reviewed if they went above and beyond the designated cost-share requirement, which he believes is inconsistent with other federal research funding programs and established rules, and also creates an inequitable situation as better-resourced institutions can out-compete others.

Chris Rasmussen shared that the current CHECRA fund balance is \$2.66 million with FY22 commitments of \$844,000. Trisha Esquibel indicated that \$2.1 million in annual appropriations is anticipated but as we have seen recently, these payments into the fund are not guaranteed, and institutions need to be mindful of that when submitting multi-year funding requests.

Alan Rudolph noted the absence on the agenda of a submitted CSU funding request for a National Science Foundation MRI Program Acquisition of an Ultrahigh Resolution Mass Spectrometry System to Enable Metaproteomics Experiments to Support Microbiome Research (\$500,246). He noted that federal MRI funding opportunities are very competitive, and that in submitting requests to CHECRA institutions should demonstrate that the acquired instruments are accessible to researchers from other institutions.

ACTION ITEMS:

- It was moved by Teri Fiez to add the aforementioned CSU funding request to the agenda and then take the three submitted MRI requests (CSU, \$500,246; CSU, \$171,428; CU \$426,771) and award funds proportionally based on the MRI set-aside that had been approved by the board at its 2021 annual meeting. Motion seconded by Walter Copan and passed unanimously. Chris Rasmussen indicated that the staff would review minutes from the annual meeting and send notification to board members with the dollar figure allocation for affirmation.
- Alan Rudolph moved to approve the two University of Colorado funding requests: \$400,000 annually for five years to support the ASPIRE Engineering Research Center (\$325,000 for CU participation and \$75,000 for CSU participation), and \$200,000 annually for five years to support the Science and Technology Center for Integration of Modern Optoelectronic Materials on Demand. Motion seconded by Jeri-Anne Lyons and approved unanimously.
- Teri Fiez moved to approve the CSU ARPA-E PLUS UP funding request of \$400,000 total, with a three-year commitment of \$133,333 annually. Motion seconded by Walter Copan and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

I. Funding Requests

- Colorado State University request funding from CHECRA to serve as cost share for a proposal to ARPA-E's (U.S. Department of Energy) PLUS UP funding opportunity (\$400,000)
- Colorado State University request funding from CHECRA to fund the acquisition of a high-resolution Matrix Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Tandem Time-of-Flight Mass Spectrometer (MALDI-TOF/TOF) (\$171,428)
- University of Colorado request funding from CHECRA to support multi-institution collaborative Engineering Research Center, ASPIRE (Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification) at Utah State University (\$400,000) -- <https://aspire.usu.edu/about/index>
- University of Colorado request funding from CHECRA to support multi-institution collaborative Science and Technology Center, Center for Integration of Modern Optoelectronic Materials on Demand at University of Washington (\$200,000) -- <https://www.washington.edu/news/2021/09/09/nsf-to-fund-revolutionary-center-for-optoelectronic-quantum-technologies/>
- University of Colorado request funding from CHECRA to support National Science Foundation 18-513 Major Research Instrumentation Program Acquisition of a Direct Detection Electron Energy Loss Spectrometer for Fast, Low-Dose, and High-Resolution Spectroscopic Imaging of Hard and Soft Materials (\$426,771)

- Colorado State University request funding from CHECRA to support National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program Acquisition of an Ultrahigh Resolution Mass Spectrometry System to Enable Metaproteomics Experiments to Support Microbiome Research (\$500,246)