

ICR Governing Board Meeting
January 21st, 2026, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Meeting By Zoom

Meeting Minutes:

In Attendance: Dr. Jon Reuter, Mr. Michael Hennesy, Ms. Elyse Contreras, Dr. John Harloe, Dr. Melissa Reynolds, Mr. Chuck Smith, Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Dr. Gail Mackin, Mr. Michael McMaster, Mr. Dieter Raemdonck, Ms. Emma Hudson, Dr. Aaron Johnson, Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. John Williamson, Ms. Justyna Dubey, Ms. Julie Powell, Dr. Chad Kinney

Absent: Mr. Sherard Rogers, Dr. Angela Bryan

- I. Welcome (1:00-1:02pm) Dr. Reuter

- II. Consent Agenda (1:02-1:05pm) Dr. Reuter
 - a. Dec 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - b. Updated: Nominees for Award of Excellence and Keynote Speaker – Advancement and Networking Dinner
 - c. HB19-1311 - ICR Director
 - d. Motion to approve consent agenda.
 - Motion passes.

- III. Government Relations Updates (1:05-1:15pm) - Emma Hudson, Dieter Raemdonck, & Nathalie Clavette
 - a. JBC Update
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: Legislative session is in early stages (Day 8) with ~100 bills introduced; the JBC is meeting with committees and preparing both the supplemental budget package and next fiscal year's budget. State budget deficit is approximately \$850 million, with indications it may increase, creating a challenging budget environment.
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: Provided update on ICR's position in the budget forecast.
 - Ms. Emma Hudson: Expressed strong agreement with the assessment that the budget outlook is unlikely to improve in the near term. There is currently no indication of positive changes in the state budget environment. Advised to monitor developments related to the 2026 ballot, as significant ballot measures are underway that could impact the future of the state budget.
 - Dr. Jon Reuter: Asked if there have been any bills introduced regarding hemp or cannabis.
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck and Ms. Emma Hudson: Don't think any have been introduced yet.
 - b. Legislator Update
 - Mr. Dieter Raemdonck: Spoke with new JBC member Kyle Brown, who expressed strong interest in meeting with this group. Mr. Brown conveyed regret for missing the prior roundtable event. **A meeting with Mr. Brown will be scheduled; participation will be coordinated. John Harloe and Jon Reuter offered to meet with Kyle.**

- IV. Advancement and Networking Dinner (1:15-1:30pm) – Dr. Harloe
 - a. Discuss Nominations for ICR Award of Excellence (see Consent Agenda)
 - Dr. John Harloe: Reminder, Advancement Dinner is scheduled for May 28, 2026. We

are still accepting nominations for the ICR's Award of Excellence. Next Fundraising subcommittee meeting is next Tuesday. Would like to announce the advancement dinner by the end of the month. Still considering doing a silent auction but need to gather assets before getting into the planning of it. The next board request will be to reach out for either donations or ticket sales.

- Dr. Chad Kinney: The ICR included a call for nominations in the last newsletter and did not receive any additional external nominations.

b. Discuss Nominations for the Keynote Speaker

- Dr. John Harloe: Continue sending nominations to Chad.

V. Change of ICR Director (1:30-1:48pm) – Dr. Reuter and Dr. Kinney

a. Process and Timing

- Dr. Jon Reuter: Dr. Chad Kinney is stepping down from the ICR Director role which initiates the first formal search process under the current enabling legislation. CSU Pueblo will serve as the hiring authority, with Dr. Mackin as the temporary hiring-authority, while the board is expected to serve as the search committee responsible for candidate reviews and interviews.

b. Responsibilities

- Dr. Chad Kinney: HR has agreed to support the process by using the NeoGov platform, which allows external committee participation, and will provide training modules for board members involved in the search. A proposed timeline is outlined with a targeted start date of August 1st or August 16th, with a finalized position description by late February, posting in mid-March, application review through May, and interviews in June. The board will continue refining logistics at the February meeting, and an HR liaison may be invited to Assist with next steps.
 - Dr. Jon Reuter, Dr. Joanna Zeiger, Mr. Chuck Smith: All expressed appreciation to Dr. Kinney for his leadership of the ICR over the years.

VI. Marketing and Communications (1:48-1:55pm) – Dr. Kinney

a. Budget considerations

- Dr. Chad Kinney: The ICR is preparing to interview finalists from the marketing and communications bid process and highlighted that current budget levels are insufficient, noting that next year's allocation may need to increase to meet project needs. Requested board guidance on whether board is willing to commit to additional resources in the next fiscal year.
- Dr. Jon Reuter: Raised concerns about public perception of increasing the spending on marketing for a state entity but acknowledged the importance of outreach and suggested framing it as education or public awareness.
- Dr. Joanna Zeiger: Expressed concerns with the marketing bid and recommended identifying priorities and possibly engaging a firm on a limited trial basis before committing to a larger budget.
- Mr. Chuck Smith: Supports increasing the budget, noting that the proposed spending would still represent a small percentage of the ICR's total budget and is consistent with practices of similar research organizations.
- Dr. Jon Reuter, Dr. Joanna Zieger, Dr Chad Kinney: Discussed a creative idea of involving business school students in marketing efforts. Feasibility concerns were raised. There is an informal consensus around supporting a potential budget increase if an appropriate firm is selected.

VII. Public Comment (1:55-2:00pm) - Dr. Reuter

a. No comments

VIII. Adjourned at: 1:52PM MST