1.0 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Colorado School of Mines intends that employee salaries are equitably established. In addition to salary determinations for new hires, employee salaries can change for job reclassifications, reemployment, promotions, demotions, transfers, equity adjustments, or for compliance with federal or state requirements. Salary levels and changes also may be governed by State of Colorado Personnel Board Rules and Director’s Procedures.

The following internal procedures will help employees and supervisors understand the considerations and processes used to make salary and salary change-related decisions and provide guidance in determining salary levels and changes.

2.0 Practice

2.1 Colorado School of Mines wishes to assure that salary decisions related to new hire, promotion, demotion, transfer, job reclassification, or reemployment are made in an equitable manner. As a starting point, the department initiating any of these actions is responsible for requesting a desired new salary for the employee.

2.2 In general, new hire salary requests should not exceed the mid-point of the pay grade for those positions with officially established pay grades. For positions that do not have a pay grade, new hire salary requests generally should not exceed prevailing salaries for the position. Human Resources can provide information about salary range mid-points and prevailing rates.

2.3 If a salary change is due to a promotion or reclassification, the salary target should not exceed the mid-point of the salary grade. In most cases, promotion or reclassification salary changes will not exceed 10% more than the employee’s current salary unless a 10% increase will be less than the minimum of the new pay grade (see 2.4 below).

2.4 If a demotion is involved, there generally will be an accompanying salary action to a reduced salary level. If a transfer is involved, absent extraordinary, documented conditions, no salary change will occur.

2.5 If the position is a classified position, in accordance with State of Colorado Personnel Board Rules, the new salary must be at least the minimum of the new pay grade. For promotion, reclassification, or reemployment, the salary must be at least
the pay grade minimum but may not exceed the pay grade maximum (except in “save pay” situations).

2.6 Prior to any salary being offered to an applicant or an employee, the department making the hire, promotion, or reclassification must ensure that adequate budget exists in the position to pay the salary. Establishing or securing funding for any initial salary or increase in salary is the responsibility of the employing department. No salary or salary increase may be put into place without the identification of sufficient position base budget to support it.

2.7 The accompanying procedures apply to Administrative Faculty, Classified, Athletics Faculty, and Research Faculty (whose title does not include rank, such as, Research Professor, Research Associate Professor, etc.) employment categories.

3.0 PROCEDURES

3.1 The employing department will make a written salary request via memo or e-mail to Human Resources. The request must contain the department’s rationale for the salary it is requesting. Such a request is necessary for new hires or when changes in an employee’s employment occur due to job reclassification, reemployment or promotion.

3.2 Departments are asked to consider in their request, but are not limited to, the following: the nature of the reason for the change, the performance of the employee, the employee’s relevant education, the nature and amount of the employee’s experience (both internal and external), the magnitude of the change in the employee’s job, State of Colorado Personnel Board Rules and Director’s Procedures (if applicable), and other factors as appropriate.

3.3 Human Resources will perform a salary analysis of the request using available market survey data, internal equity comparisons, the department’s rationale, and other relevant factors. Prior to sending its final salary analysis to the area executive (a vice president, the Provost, or the President), Human Resources will discuss its analysis with the requesting department. Human Resources will also consult with the area executive on the decision as needed.

3.4 The area executive will decide the appropriate salary and communicate his or her decision to Human Resources. If the decision of the area executive exceeds the general principles outlined in 2.0 Practice above or is not consistent with the bounds of the salary analysis performed by Human Resources, final decision and approval
must be obtained from the President. Human Resources will initiate review with the President.

3.5 Any request to place above the mid-point, above the prevailing salary levels, or above the 10% increase threshold for promotions or reclassifications must be approved by the President before being communicated to the affected department and employee.

3.5.1 For all positions except those that are grant or contract funded (see 3.5.2 below for positions funded through grants or contracts), initial salaries or increases to an employee’s salary cannot be completed or communicated to the employee until the Budget Office confirms that funds are identified and allocated to the account from which the employee is paid.

3.5.2 In addition, prior to obtaining final salary authorization from the area executive as outlined above, initial salaries or increased salaries funded from grants or contracts must be authorized by the principal investigator, the department head/division director, and be confirmed by the Office of Research Administration (to assure adequate budget exists and that the change is allowed under the grant or contract terms). This must occur prior to any communication to the affected employee.

3.5.3 In the event that funds to support the new salary cannot be identified (or are not permitted for those positions that are externally funded), the salary action cannot be completed.

3.5.3. A. For Classified employees, in concert with State of Colorado Personnel Board Rules, a salary increase is not mandated and the promotion, reemployment, or reclassification may occur without a change in salary. The exception to this rule is that the employee must be paid at least the minimum of the new pay grade.

3.5.3. B. If budget cannot be identified to pay at least the new pay grade minimum, the employee will not be asked or expected to perform the increased responsibilities and the position will revert to its prior position description and classification.

3.6 No salary agreements or promises can be made by the employing department to an employee prior to the salary decision being made and approved by the area executive in concert with these procedures.
4.0 Records

The Human Resources Office will retain records relating to salary actions taken under this policy and procedures for at least three years or as otherwise required by statute or State of Colorado Personnel Board Rules and Director’s Procedures.

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Replaces revision dated October 6, 2009