

# **WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL**

## **February 27, 2013**

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held in Charleston at the Marriott Town Center on February 27, 2013; at 4:00 p.m. Meeting notification was properly provided as required by state code through the office of the Secretary of State. A notebook of materials was mailed to members in advance. Attendance was as follows:

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Paul Hill  
Dr. Orlando McMeans  
Kay Goodwin  
Dr. John Maher  
Dr. Charles Somerville  
Dr. Jan Taylor  
Jack Carpenter  
Marty Burke, representative for Dr. James Phares  
Dr. Glenn Dillon  
Dr. Pamela Balch  
Neil Vance, representative for Keith Burdette  
Dr. Earl Scime

### **OTHERS**

Jan Fox  
Arnold Miller  
David Lederman  
Jack Smith  
Don McLaughlin  
Kelly Merritt  
Annette Echols

### **CALL TO ORDER**

-After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Hill called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Hill welcomed the group and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

-Dr. Hill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the minutes were approved.

### **REPORT FROM DIRECTOR AND TECHNICAL LEADERS**

- ❖ Updates from NSF Office-
- ❖ Report from Dr. Jan Taylor:

-The Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) has been charged with an NSF EPSCoR Program evaluation study. This is part of the life study program per the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). We will receive one survey per Track 1 award; West Virginia's awards date back to 1980.

-The upcoming Request for Proposals for the NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track 1 is expected to include at least one recommendation from the EPSCoR 2030 Workshop. Denise Barnes of NSF noted that this was still a work in progress.

-The NSF site visit targeting West Virginia as a pilot state has been postponed. Therefore, West Virginia will be traveling to Washington DC on September 24 for a reverse site visit. The Executive Leadership Team met earlier today and once instructions are received from NSF, a team will be assembled.

-NSF's online reporting system "Fastlane" is being replaced with Research.gov. Our next annual report due on May 2 will be submitted using this new reporting system. All partnering institutions have been sent reporting instructions in order to meet the new reporting requirements.

-The next NSF EPSCoR National Conference will be held in Nashville, TN in November 2013.

- ❖ Federal Program Projects-
- ❖ Report from Dr. Jan Taylor:

-We were unable to find a partner institute and therefore, we did not apply for the NSF RII Track 2 this year. We will try to develop partnerships after the new Track 2 awards are announced.

-The 2<sup>nd</sup> PUI sub-award was made from the NSF RII Track 1 award. The University of Charleston has partnered with West Virginia State University.

-The NSF Desk Review of the Higher Education Policy Commission conducted in 2009 was officially closed out and accepted by NSF in November.

- ❖ Federal Program Projects-
- ❖ Report from Dr. Jan Fox:

-Dr. Fox presented reports on both the NSF RII C2 (Cyber-based) award and the NSF RII Track 2 award granted to Marshall University. The C2 award was primarily aimed at Internet2 as it “flattens West Virginia” and “makes us connected to California like they were next door”. She referred to handouts given to the group and summarized by stating that Marshall University started the initiative and WVNET has now taken ownership of the project.

-Dr. Fox deferred the presentation on Marshall’s Track 2 award to Dr. Jack Smith, Cyberinfrastructure Coordinator for HEPC. Dr. Smith indicated that the Track 2 was high performance computing and was used for creating and upgrading equipment. WVSU was able to purchase and assemble a cluster and visualization wall. Dr. Orlando McMeans noted that the grant transformed WVSU and allowed them to hire a bioinformatics professor. Despite the fact that the grant has ended, West Virginia will still be collaborating with their partner institution in Arkansas.

- ❖ Federal Program Projects-
- ❖ Report from Dr. Don McLaughlin:

-Dr. McLaughlin continued to report on the Track 2 award from West Virginia University’s perspective. He indicated that the award had three primary objectives: 1) develop and share research facilities, 2) develop Human Resource capabilities in the areas of computational science and 3) collaboration. WVU’s high performance computing dubbed “Mountaineer” started under an NSF RII Track 1 award but is now twice as large as it was in the past.

-Dr. McLaughlin also presented a project update on the C2 award at WVU. WVU took the intramural approach that allowed core network upgrades. They now have greater engagement with the National Energy Technology Lab and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. They also have greater Internet2 bandwidth.

Dr. Hill asked if any of the campus champions were seeing a variety of projects. To date, the computational resources have been used by physicists, chemists, mechanical engineers, for genomics as well as other projects. Mr. Carpenter inquired about any external users. There have not been any external users yet.

- ❖ Federal Program Projects-
- ❖ Report from Dr. David Lederman:

-Dr. Lederman provided a brief update on the NSF RII Track 1 award. He referred to the NanoSAFE website ([nanosafe.wvu.edu](http://nanosafe.wvu.edu)) in reference to the Vision, Mission, Overview and Strategic Plan. He reported that they are receiving good feedback from outside parties on the shared research facilities. Upcoming events include WVU’s external review and the NanoSAFE Symposium.

- ❖ State Program Projects-

❖ Report from Dr. Jan Taylor:

1) Research Challenge Grants

- The previous RCG awards expired June 30 and final reports were compiled into a comprehensive 5 year outcomes report. The report showed a 6:1 return on investment and the report was approved by the HEPC.

-Dr. Taylor reported that one PI misused grant funds and an investigation is ongoing. She may be asked to testify in court.

-Three new RCG grant awards were issued in July to Drs. Xingbo Liu and David Lederman at WVU and Dr. Dick Niles at Marshall.

2) Research Trust Fund

-Both WVU and MU have matched 100% of the funds available to them. The interest earnings have provided funding for the final 2 PUI awards.

3) Vision 2015

-Vision 2015 has been revised (copies of the publication were provided to each Council member).

**FINANCE REPORT**

-Ms. Echols presented the NSF Federal Financial Report the quarter ending December 31.

Dr. Dillon inquired about funding new projects; Mr. Carpenter inquired about a new "Bucks for Brains" project. Dr. Hill indicated that the pop tax legislation has been opened that there was a potential source of support for research. However, the legislation is meeting resistance from both beverage vendors and the Governor who vowed not to increase taxes.

**EVENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

-Mr. Merritt highlighted the importance of research using both our traditional means, *The Neuron*, and a new approach, *Nanooze*. Dr. Carl Batt of Cornell worked with DSR to produce the West Virginia edition of the *Nanooze* that targets 8<sup>th</sup> graders across the state. This year's magazine is nearly complete and the project is expected to continue for the next 2 years.

-Mr. Merritt announced the addition of STEM student activities around the state to the Division's website. He also noted that we are running radio ads featuring our state's key researchers on MetroNews as part of the NSF RII Track 1 outreach campaign.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND ADJOURNMENT**

-The NSF EPSCoR Office head has informed us that the PI of an award cannot be the state governing committee chair. Authorization to remove Dr. Paul Hill as PI and add Dr. Jan Taylor was sought of the Council. Dr. Pamela Balch moved to approve the change and Dr. John Maher seconded it; motion carried.

-A new post doctoral student will be joining the staff this summer, assisting Dr. Taylor and assuming the role of education coordinator.

-Council approved the use of electronic meeting materials circulated via email to replace traditional printed notebooks for the next meeting.

-The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. and all members were invited to attend a networking event hosted by BiosciencesWV.