

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

November 28, 2018

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on November 28, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Carolyn Long
Dr. Jan Taylor
Dr. Sheena Murphy for Dr. Fred King via phone
Dr. Michael Norton
Jack Carpenter
Dr. Earl Scime via phone
Dr. Laura Gibson via phone
Anne Barth
Dr. Orlando McMeans
Dr. John Maher
Robin Sizemore for Dr. Steven Paine

OTHERS

Annette Carpenter
Angela Sundstrom
Dr. Brandi Ettehadih
Dr. J. Ulises Toledo

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Ms. Long called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m. Introductions of all members present were made, including the new board member, Dr. Michael Norton from Marshall University.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meetings held on June 28, 2018 was requested; after noting a spelling correction, the motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Presented by Jan Taylor

Federal Programs:

NSF RII Track 1

-A site visit from NSF was conducted on September 18-19, 2018 at West Virginia University. The site visit report was received on November 6 and responses are due on November 30 and December 30. Mr. Carpenter asked if there were any concerns and Dr. Taylor indicated that there were not. Dr. Scime felt some parts seemed critical. Dr. Taylor responded that the most critical issues were related to the AFI theme, the need for an industry engagement plan and a hiring plan. The site visit report and the responses generated will be sent to the Council upon completion by Dr. Taylor.

-A discussion of white paper reviews followed. As the EPSCoR director and PI, Dr. Taylor recused herself from the discussion regarding the selection. Dr. Maher indicated that the external review team suggested a repeat competition. After a discussion of the members present, a repeat competition of the top 3 proposals, plus inclusion of collaborations that fit the top 3 submissions, will be conducted and externally reviewed by the same group of reviewers. Dr. Taylor will develop the instructions with a target re-submission date of January 10 and target reviews completed by January 31.

-NSF EPSCoR may be hosting a governance workshop in the near future and will encourage EPSCoR advisory group members to attend. Dr. Taylor will inform the group of the workshop as it develops. Dr. Maher indicated that his attendance at the recent NSF EPSCoR Project Director and Project Administrator meeting in Charleston was extremely educational, especially when networking with other EPSCoR jurisdictions.

NSF INCLUDES

-The Higher Education Policy Commission Division of Science and Research was recently awarded another NSF grant. The Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers of Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) is a collaborative grant and the HEPC is deemed the backbone and will provide administrative support to the project.

State Programs:

-Dr. Taylor announced that 8 instrumentation grants and 1 innovation grant were awarded last month. She indicated that the proposals continue to improve; one of the Division of Science and Research's goals is to educate faculty in submitting proposals for federal funding. It was also noted how the equipment based grants are very much appreciated by the undergraduate institutions (PUIs). Dr. Maher inquired about the future funding for the Science and Research budget. Ms. Long did not respond specifically about the Research Challenge Fund but did indicate that funds were requested to restore Capital improvement projects (at the institutions) and land-grant funds for WVSU. Dr. Scime added that the new DOE EPSCoR solicitation is forthcoming and if awarded, a dedicated matching fund will be needed. In the past, the funds came from the Research Challenge Fund awarded through the HEPC Division of Science and Research. Ms. Long requested input and talking points for the legislators from the group.

OTHER

Ms. Long and Dr. Taylor will pick outlying dates for future regular meetings of the Council.

NEXT MEETING

The next special meeting will take place in February 2019 via Zoom with the need to approve the final NSF RII Track 1 white paper submission.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.