

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

June 6, 2019

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on June 6, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Sarah Tucker
Dr. Jan Taylor
Dr. Fred King via phone
Dr. Michael Norton via phone
Jack Carpenter
Dr. Earl Scime via phone
Dr. John Maher
Anne Barth
Dr. Orlando McMeans via phone

OTHERS

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

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Introductions of HEPC's interim chancellor was made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior 2 meetings held on November 28 and February 12 was requested; the motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Presented by Jan Taylor

Federal Programs:

NSF RII Track 1

-Dr. Taylor asked that all involved with the current Track 1 award work synergistically to be sure we remain on target. She asked that all spend their funds before the project ends noting that she is unable to extend the project unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

-The NSF site visit responses (along with the original questions) were submitted to NSF and provided to the Council for review. Dr. King requested a copy of the NSF cover letter and Dr. Taylor indicated that she would provide it.

-The All Hands meeting will be held next week on Marshall University's campus. Our NSF program officer will be attending. Dr. King asked Dr. Taylor to notify all the researchers regarding the program officer's attendance.

-Dr. Taylor has received a draft copy of the letter of intent for the new RII Track 1 submission. She is editing it now and upon submission, it will trigger a template for participants.

-NSF held their annual PD/PA/EOD meeting last month in Washington DC. The DOD EPSCoR program is back but it's different than in the past with the inclusion of big data and the need for national importance. The NSF RII Track 4 program has been updated so that only 3 proposals per jurisdiction can be submitted. Dr. Taylor asked that each institution notify her before submissions so she can better determine if there will be a need to reduce the number of submissions.

NSF INCLUDES

-Dr. Taylor gave a brief overview of the NSF INCLUDES meeting she just attended where the HEPC serves as the backbone to the grant to West Virginia. The FIRST 2 grant is to support 1st generation STEM program students during their first two years of school. West Virginia had 9 grants co-funded by NSF EPSCoR including the INCLUDES grant.

State Programs:

-Dr. Taylor noted that the annual Research Trust Fund report is due in August. Dr. King requested a reminder via email.

The fiscal year Research Challenge Fund spending plan was presented by Annette Carpenter including the current cash balance, anticipated income and anticipated obligations. A motion to approve the spending plan was requested; motion carried.

OTHER

Dr. Taylor announced that a search for Deputy Director in the HEPC Division of Science and Research is underway to assist with both the NSF RII Track 1 and the NSF INCLUDES grants. To date, there have not been any qualified candidates. Dr. Tucker asked Dr. Taylor to send a copy of the job advertisement to the Council and requested suggestions (if any) be provided to Dr. Taylor.

Angela Sundstrom gave an overview of the recent communication activities including the upcoming STEM speaker series in June, the division's website, the Neuron magazine, the Neurite publication and the video series. She recommended viewing the videos on our YouTube channel and indicated that a few more RII Track 1 research scientists will be featured soon.

Governor appointments and re-appointments to the Council remain incomplete. Dr. Tucker noted that the Governor's office had a loss of data and requested updates to other boards and commissions recently.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will take place on November 7, 2019 at 4:00PM to tie in with the Fall STEM speaker.

The next special meeting to approve, review and discuss the next RII Track 1 proposal will be July 16 at 1:30PM via Zoom or conference call.

Dr. Taylor will schedule the meetings and send calendar reminders.

Dr. Tucker indicated that there would not be an executive session regarding the review of the existing project director. Instead, she will send an evaluation form to all members of the Council with the exception of the PI and co-PIs for completion. She will then share the results with the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.