

# **WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL**

## **February 7, 2020**

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on February 7, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in Charleston, WV. Attendance was as follows:

### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Sarah Tucker  
Dr. J. Ulises Toledo  
Dr. Fred King via phone  
Dr. Michael Norton  
Dr. Jan Fox  
Rachel Roberts  
Dr. John Maher  
Anne Barth  
Robin Sizemore for Dr. Steve Paine  
Dr. Laura Gibson via phone  
Dr. Juliana Serafin

### **OTHERS**

Annette Carpenter  
Angela Sundstrom  
Dr. Majid Jaridi  
Dr. Sheena Murphy via phone  
Jack Carpenter

### **CALL TO ORDER**

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meetings held on November 7, 2019 was requested; the motion carried.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Dr. Tucker introduced Dr. Juliana Serafin as the new Director of the Division of Science and Research to the Council. Dr. Serafin will also serve on the Council and is the current Principal Investigator on the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 grant. Matt Turner, Vice Chancellor for Administration of the Higher Education Policy Commission, stopped by to thank those Council members who helped with the search for a new director.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Presented by Annette Carpenter (on behalf of Dr. Jan Serafin)

#### **Federal Programs:**

##### **NSF RII Track 1**

-Current Award –The RII track 1 balance as of January 30 was roughly \$3.5M. Dr. Brandi Ettehadih conducted campus visits in December and although her notes were not finalized before leaving for maternity leave, she did not report any issues that would prevent any partner from spending their funds prior to July 31. Ms. Carpenter reminded all project managers that in the event of a need to request a no cost extension, an extension is not allowed merely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances. Also, if an extension is granted, another annual report will be due; this is in addition to a final report. If we expect to receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> award, the maximum overlap period for 2 active RII Track 1 grants is 6 months. Dr. Serafin is now the official Project Director and Principal Investigator on this award; Dr. Taylor retired on January 31. An Executive Leadership Team meeting will be conducted soon.

-New Proposal- to date, West Virginia has not received any questions from NSF or reviewers. Dr. Tucker felt that the president's budget would include an increase to the NSF EPSCoR program but she could not comment on whether or not this included funding for the WV Track 1 proposal.

##### **NSF RII Track 2**

-Dr. J. Ulises Toledo, Dr. Sheena Murphy and Dr. John Maher briefed the group on several proposals submitted to NSF in January for the RII Track 2 projects. These proposals relate to water and big data themed projects. Potential partners include Kentucky, Kansas and Arkansas.

## **NSF INCLUDES**

-Dr. Serafin discussed the NSF INCLUDES alliance; it's a collaborative network to help assist first generation students to go to college and become involved in research. Currently there are 175 people and 25 institutions involved with the project, including industry partners. The alliance is working on the expansion of the summer immersive program. A reverse site visit with NSF will take place in March.

## **NASA EPSCoR**

-Dr. Majid Jaridi presented the group with an overview of the NASA Space Grant Consortium and the NASA WV EPSCoR program. A detailed handout was provided including information on their vision, mission and objectives. The Research Seed Grant program and the Travel Grant program are currently open and available for applications. Dr. Jaridi encouraged all to visit their website and share the information as proposals are due soon.

## **DOD & DOE EPSCoR**

-Dr. Sheena Murphy indicated that WVU submitted 3 pre-proposals for the DOE EPSCoR program; they expect a short turnaround with full proposals due in late March. These are multi-million dollar awards for up to 3 years. The DOD program (DEPSCoR) has been recently re-established. **The new program is limited and is expected to be competitive? New solicitation due?**

## **State Programs:**

Annette

## **Other:**

Jack Carpenter

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## **OTHER**

-Angela Sundstrom gave a brief update on the Neuron, the Neurite and the featured Scientist spotlight video.

## **NEXT MEETING**

-The next regular meeting of the Council will be on the afternoon of June 18<sup>h</sup>, 2020.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.