

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

October 18, 2021

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on October 18, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. at the headquarters of the Higher Education Policy Commission in Charleston WV. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Sarah Tucker
Dr. J. Ulises Toledo
Dr. Fred King
Dr. Juliana Serafin
Anne Barth
Dr. Maura McLaughlin
Joey Wiseman for Dr. Clayton Burch
Kelsey Staggers for Ed Gaunch
Dr. Jack Dever
Dr. Sally Hodder
Dr. Mike Norton
Dr. John Maher
Rachel Roberts

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dr. Uma Sundarum
Dr. Colleen Nolan

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Annette Carpenter (HEPC)
Angela Sundstrom (HEPC)
Dr. Ami Smith (WVSU)

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting held on July 15, 2021, was made by Anne Barth and seconded by Fred King; the motion carried.

REVIEW OF BYLAWS (Juliana Serafin)

After reviewing the bylaws of the Council created in 2009, it was determined that a few clarifications related to appointments to match the state code were needed. HEPC's legal staff reviewed the modifications and made recommendations for the Council to approve. A recommendation to approve the updated bylaws was made; the motion carried.

LOCEA REPORTS (Juliana Serafin)

Annual reports on the Research Trust Fund, the Research Challenge Fund and the State Science and Technology Plan were presented to the Legislative Oversight Committee on Education Accountability (LOCEA) by Dr. Serafin. Copies of each report were provided to the Council. The Science and Technology Plan received a good response and some members, including Roger Hanshaw, requested a full printed copy of the plan. Senator Rucker had questions related to the private funding resulting from the state's investment in the 3 current Research Challenge Grants. Dr. Serafin was able to provide updates ranging between \$1.3 million to \$26.5 million of private funding. Dr. Norton asked why private funding was of more interest than federal funding. Dr. Serafin clarified that the numbers she provided included both private funds and federal funds (all external funding). The Research Trust Fund report resulted in one inquiry related to the smaller schools that received the interest earnings. Dr. Serafin was able to provide the requested information from a previous annual report.

Opportunity, Instrumentation, Innovation Grants and Other (Juliana Serafin)

The Opportunity Grants that fund summer camps, faculty travel and other small projects (<\$5,000) opened on July 1. To date, we have funded 5 projects. This grant will remain open until all funds are used. The Instrumentation and Innovation Grants closed on September 30. 11 applications for instruments were submitted and 7 were funded. 2 Innovation grant applications were submitted and 1 was awarded. The review committee

opted for 2 more instrumentation awards due to the lack of applications for innovation grants. Dr. Serafin will announce the winners today and Angela Sundstrom will issue a press release. Dr. Suzanne Strait provided assistance with the STEM summer camps aimed at middle school students hosted by the National Youth Science Foundation. The 3 camps were deemed successful. Dr. Strait also concluded her diversity training program.

VISION 2025 – NEXT STEPS (Juliana Serafin)

A sub-committee to work on the implementation of the revised Science and Technology Plan (*Vision 2025*) was formed. Members and staff that volunteered include Dr. Jack Dever, Dr. John Maher, Dr. Fred King, Dr. Juliana Serafin and Dr. Ami Smith. Dr. Serafin will contact the group to determine the a time for the subcommittee to meet.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (Angela Sundstrom)

Ms. Sundstrom reported that the implementation of the division's new logo and branding is currently underway. The summer *Neuron* focusing on an RII Track 1 theme is wrapping up and will be available in the next week or 2. The Science Spotlight videos are complete but she is waiting on the vendor to update the logos before releasing the videos publicly. The videos are slightly different this year with a focus on industry, academia and government. The next STEM speaker event will be on November 4 at the Culture Center in Charleston. The theme will be on cave exploration being conducted by Dr. Julie Meachen of Des Moines University. She reported that turnout for the outdoor speakers in July was low but she is hopeful that this next event will be better. Dr. Serafin is hoping to obtain a big name speaker this spring.

NEXT MEETING

A date for the next meeting was not chosen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.