

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

April 20, 2023

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on April 20, at 11:00 a.m. at the headquarters of the Higher Education Policy Commission in Charleston, WV, and via Zoom. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chancellor Sarah Tucker
Anne Barth
Dr. Jason Best
Dr. Jack Dever
Dr. Micheal Fultz
Dr. Sally Hodder
Dr. John Maher
Dr. Maura McLaughlin
Dr. Mike Norton
Dr. Juliana Serafin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Bailey
Dr. Fred King
David Roach
Rachel Roberts
Dr. Uma Sundarum

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Annette Carpenter (HEPC)
Jade Irving (HEPC)
Dr. Sheena Murphy (WVU)
Dr. Suzanne Strait (HEPC)

CALL TO ORDER

After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Tucker called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting on September 26, 2022, was made and seconded; the motion carried.

NSF EPSCOR PROGRAM UPDATES (Juliana Serafin)

Dr. Juliana Serafin shared that the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 proposal that was submitted on 8/20/22 is still pending but she is optimistic that it will be recommended for funding by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Serafin presented a summary slide of the project including the 4 partner institutions, the two themes and the Co-PIs. She also presented a slide showing the proposed management structure including the external evaluators, an external technical advisory board, and executive leadership management structure. The NSF final decision on funding is expected to be made public in May or June 2023.

RESEARCH CHALLENGE GRANTS (Juliana Serafin)

Dr. Serafin presented a summary of the three funded Research Challenge Grant programs that kicked off on January 1, 2023, and run through December 31, 2027. The three projects were publicly recognized at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol on February 10, 2023. Dr. Serafin has been able to attend 2 of the 3 kickoff events held at West Virginia University.

OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS & OTHER UPDATES (Angela Sundstrom, Suzanne Strait, Jade Irving)

Dr. Suzanne Strait summarized a new proposal that was submitted to the NSF in mid-March 2023 for the NSF GRANTED program. This new program is currently accepting applications for conferences and workshops to help grow grant administration capacity at non-R1 universities. This proposal would allow our agency to host

regional meetings and a statewide workshop to better understand the barriers in applying for and administering NSF grants in West Virginia. If funded, it would begin in August 2023 with a total award of \$100,000.

Dr. Strait updated the group on the upcoming STEM speaker, "Kate the Chemist", who is speaking at 2 events on May 18 at the Clay Center in Charleston. This speaker is funded via a partnership with the HEPC GEAR UP program. She also gave a summary of the Opportunity Grants and Sponsorships that have been awarded in the past fiscal year including travel assistance to VEX Robotics teams at various middle and high schools in West Virginia. These teams will be traveling to an international competition in Dallas, TX. Additionally, she presented a summary of the upcoming summer science camps for grades 6-10 across the state held in partnership with the National Youth Science Academy.

Angela Sundstrom reported that the last edition of the *Neuron* was released in January 2023 with a focus on the NSF-funded First2 program. The last round of Science Spotlight Videos have been released. Both the *Neuron* and the videos are available for viewing on our website wvresearch.org. The next *Neuron* will be released at the end of May 2023 with a focus on the NSF EPSCoR Track 2 and Track 4 programs. Three new Science Spotlight videos are also expected by the end of July.

Jade Irving gave a brief update on the First2 Network Alliance funded by NSF INCLUDES. The First2 Network will host their statewide semi-annual meeting in May 2023. They continue to work on a long-term sustainability plan for the students and the faculty members. The grant is now in its 5th year but will continue for another 12 months via a no cost extension.

NEXT MEETING / OTHER

A date for the next meeting was not chosen.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.