

WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL

March 21, 2024

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held on March 21, at 1:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the Higher Education Policy Commission in Charleston, WV, and via Zoom. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. John Maher
Dr. Jason Best
Dr. Jack Dever
Dr. Micheal Fultz
Rachel Roberts
Dr. Fred King
Dr. Juliana Serafin
Dr. Erika Klose (for Superintendent Blatt)
Kelsey Staggers (for Secretary Bailey)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chancellor Sarah Tucker
Dr. Maura McLaughlin
Dr. Sally Hodder
Anne Barth (expired term)
Dr. Brandon Henderson
Dr. Michael Norton

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Annette Carpenter (HEPC)
Dr. Janet Rorrer (HEPC)
Angela Sundstrom (HEPC)
Dr. Heather Arnett (HEPC)
Dr. Eric Horstick (WVU)
Dr. Suzanne Strait (MU)

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Maher chaired the meeting on behalf of Chancellor Tucker. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes from September 27, 2023. Motion carried.

NSF EPSCOR PROGRAM UPDATES (Juliana Serafin)

Dr. Serafin reported that the year 1 report for the current NSF RII Track 1 grant was submitted on March 15, 2024. Dr. Eric Horstick provided a brief overview of the Theme 1 Research component of the project, including the purchase of a MERSCOPE. Dr. Serafin added that several hires have been made. Dr. Nadja Spitzer was unable to attend the meeting to provide a Theme 2 update. Dr. Rorrer reported on the Education and Workforce Development component, including the progress made with the LSAMP. Dr. Maher inquired whether there has been any communication regarding undergraduate retention. Dr. King agreed that this needs to be communicated. Dr. Klose asked about advertisements for the upcoming summer camps. Dr. Strait indicated that the WV Adventures Camp kickoff was initiated late last week. Dr. Horstick asked if data was being collected in relation to PROMISE scholarship recipients. He also encouraged data collection early in the project. Dr. Serafin reported that our external evaluators are working on activity surveys.

NSF GRANTED & URDC UPDATE (Janet Rorrer)

Dr. Rorrer discussed the purpose of the NSF GRANTED project (resolving barriers related to submitting and administering grant proposals) and reported that the 1st regional meeting was held at West Virginia University in January. Two more regional meetings will take place next week and the statewide meeting will be held in May 2024.

Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol (URDC) was held on February 22 and was deemed a great success with 150 abstract submissions (120 accepted) from 8 schools representing 23 different fields. Dr. Rorrer also reported that the new SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience) grant recipients were acknowledged at URDC. These are 3-year awards, and this is the first time that 8 schools received the grants. Dr. Fultz reported that next year's URDC will be held on March 25. Dr. Dever asked if internships were available to

industry partners. Dr. Serafin indicated that she would discuss this with Dr. Dever later. She also indicated that an internship portal was available on the wvresearch.org website.

OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS & OTHER UPDATES (Angela Sundstrom)

Ms. Sundstrom reported that the last edition of the *Neuron* was released in January 2024 featuring the new RII Track 1 grant as the cover story. The next edition will be completed in the next few months. The Science Spotlight Videos reported at the previous meeting are now available on the wvresearch.org website.

The next STEM speaker series will take place on April 15 in Charleston featuring Dr. Scott Barry Kaufman, a cognitive scientist and humanistic psychologist. Dr. Kaufmann will present two daytime talks in conjunction with the WV GEARUP program (student focus), followed by a public event in the evening. The initial advertisement for the public session has already generated 32 registrations.

FIRST2 NETWORK UPDATE (Heather Arnett)

Dr. Arnett updated the Council on the First2 project currently funded by NSF, including granting 8 institutional advancement awards and the forthcoming statewide meeting that includes industry partners. An administrator's conference was held in February to encourage more state institutions to understand the project. The First2 group will apply for another supplement from the NSF soon. They are also in the process of creating a non-profit organization.

OTHER

A motion was made to declare March 22, 2024, Annette Carpenter retirement day. Ms. Carpenter has been the NSF EPSCoR project administrator since 2002. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A date for the next meeting was not chosen. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.