

Minutes
NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 Project Directors
January 27, 2017
U.S. Virgin Islands

The meeting convened at 2:00pm.

Discussion on the Future of the Council of Project Directors (Jim Rice, SD, Council chair)

Fred Choobineh (NE) provided a brief history of why and how the Council was formed. Denise Barnes (NSF EPSCoR) briefly reviewed the Council's activity over the last ~ 10 years. Michael Khonsari (LA) gave a brief overview of the EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation and Coalition.

The project directors discussed the following questions.

- Is there still a need for the Council?
- Do we need the every-other year January meeting?
- If it is to continue, there is a need to create archive of minutes, by-laws, so we aren't "reinventing the wheel" each year.

Motion: The Council of Project Directors should continue.

- Approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: The even-year meeting (held when there is no national EPSCoR conference) should continue late in the year as specified in the Council bylaws.

- Approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: This even-year meeting should include more programming for the RII Track 1 PDs.

- Approved by unanimous consent.

The PDs proposed a list of topics and activities that could serve as the basis for their greater engagement and participation in the Council and PD meetings. That list is presented below with suggestions listed in the order they were proposed.

- Create a PD website for "parking" the Council's organizational history.
- Provide more RII administration information (e.g., mechanics of reporting)
- Re-emphasizing the role of state advisory committees (e.g., in the RII Track 2 program)
- New PD best practices and orientation
- Communicating EPSCoR's impact – working group to report at next PD meeting)
- Improving jurisdictional RII Track-1 project directors' communication with the EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation/Coalition
- Define what we mean by research competitiveness
- Explore the possibility of increasing the state cost-share requirement
- Work to get EPSCoR jurisdiction faculty on more national boards, panels, advisory groups, etc.
- How should we recommend that funding be prioritized between the RII program tracks?
- Investigate the INBRE PD network as a model for the PD Council
- Provide information on science policy as we move forward in an era of uncertain science policy and science research funding

Motion: During the remaining 4 months of this Council meeting cycle (i.e., by the May 2017 PD meeting in Washington) the PDs will undertake the following:

1. Create a PD Council website
 2. Begin to increase the communication between the Council and the EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation/Coalition
 3. Form a subcommittee to assess how we can better communicate the impact of the EPSCoR program.
- Approved by unanimous consent.

Upon approval of the motion the following subcommittee was created: Don Sparks (DE, subcommittee chair), Ray Callaway (MT), Carol Kim (ME), Jan Taylor (WV). The subcommittee was asked to prepare a list of recommendations for the May 2017 PD meeting.

PDs were encouraged to submit additional ideas to add to the list (above) as revisions to the meeting minutes.

There were no additional items proposed for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Rice