NASA EPSCoR Caucus Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: June 10, 2025

Part 1 ExCom business (ExCom and invited participants)—60 minutes
Welcome, roll, agenda C. Cole
Secretary's report (approval of minutes from last meeting) P. Oemig
NASA announcements / updates K. Loftin
Nominating Committee update—Caucus elections E. Duke
Discussion of down-select processes P. Oemig / C. Cole
Preliminary discussion of possible amendment of Caucus bylaws (to decrease the number of positions needed in the leadership) C. Cole
NASA EPSCoR Advocacy L. Gilbert / L. Katz
EPSCoR / IDeA Foundation J. Molesworth
Other business All ExCom
Part 2 Open session (All)—30 minutes
Comments and questions from the floor All
Adjourn

Chip: Hello everyone. It's four o'clock. We have a quorum.

Paulo moved to approve the minutes from May 13 provided correction mentioned by Melanie. Sara seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved with correction.

Update from nominating committee:

Caitlin: We have a ballot that has been approved to be sent. All nominees have been notified. Just need to confirm with you, Chip, if I have the right email listserv.

NASA UPDATES:
Kathy: Selection package for the Basic Research has been sent to NSSC. Award letters planned for this Friday, June 13. Regarding the R3 proposals we are struggling with finding enough reviewers. July 25 is the last date we have to turn in our selections to NSSC.

We have sent our selection package to NSSC. Award letters planned for this Friday, June 13. For the basic research, the $750,000 award.
ISS solicitation is out. There might be a chance that it may be cancelled but was assured it's won't.
With the budget out, the Mission Directorates don't want us to share topic areas when priorities may change. We are super hopeful we will be able to award the R3s.

Toni: The ISS solicitation states that it can be submitted by the director or designee. Can I make a designee the PI and write a letter stating that they have been selected by the Director and will run it and collect reporting information?

Kathy: I don’t have a problem with that.

Sara: If a Sc-I moves to another state, can they take the award with them?

Kathy: It’s a case per case basis, if it is an EPSCoR state, it’s possible. If not, finding another Sc-I to take over at the original jurisdiction/university.

Frank McDonald is no longer with us. I’m incredibly short staff. Both of my Technical Officers are on a well-deserved vacation. OSTEM is losing a lot a people.

CHALLENGES OF DOWN-SELECT:
Paulo: Kathy, can you consider including a statement on future solicitation indicating that down-select processes and results at each jurisdiction are not open to appeals and are final or something to that effect.

Kathy: I’m not working on any new solicitations right now, but please remind me for the next cycle to work on putting something to that effect.

Chip: I make the list of reviewers we have public and their expertise.

Denise: I do have debriefs.

Colleen: How many research proposals will be awarded?

Kathy: At this point 14. Like to leave the option open if we can add another one.

Chip: Potential amendment to our bylaws.

It follows from a comment, actually from Melanie. 8-9 officers plus 4 in the nominating committee. I’m thinking we can fold the nominating committee into the Executive Committee.

Melanie: It seems like we have the same size of committee when it’s only for 28 states. We may not needed to be that big, particularly, when you opened it up to everyone to participate in our EPSCoR meetings.

Shawna: Agree.

Toni: I would say it’s important that everyone has the capacity to self-nominate.

Chip: It’s in our bylaws, accepting nominations from the floor, or email.

Propose bylaw amendment: “The Nominating Committee shall consist of the members of the Ex Comm excepting those who wish to run for office in the next election”

Toni: That sounds good to me.

Chip: I will circulate this propose amendment around; to pass it we need 2/3 of the votes.

ADVOCACY
Leslee: Appropriation and authorization.
Authorization House scienc and commerce committee.
Best chance to pass a reauthorization is in the House right now. There is a new staffer coming from NASA. We scheduled to go over the reauthorization. And Senator Capito's staffer. Both want to see the program reauthorized.
Appropriation: The house is going first, beginning to mark up bills for FY26 with defense, agriculture. Expected early to mid-July to put a bill out.
Senator Chuck Hall (OK) to mark top items from President's budget. Don't be surprised if the numbers are lower for Space Grant and EPSCoR.

Senate Chairwoman, Collins, will wait until this reconciliation is finished to mark up bills. There was a Dear Colleague letter which showed a positive sign in support of this EPSCoR program.

Caitlin: Can we expect to know in about a month the numbers for SG (and EPSCoR) for FY26.

Leslee: I find it very unlikely that will be zero out.
The Senate needs a bipartisan agreement.

I would be far more worry if I was in MUREP or Next Gen STEM

Colleen: Wouldn't that entail redoing the office we report to?

Leslee: There are no parameters where the administrator puts the program.

Shawna: Do you think the OSTEM office itself is in danger of being discontinued?

Leslee: I don't think in terms of programs, SG and EPSCoR, will go anywhere. But, where they live, is up to the executive branch.

Toni: Colleen as far as technical officers, they change all the time. Gateway is another question – are we still supposed to be collecting data on DEIA. Do they have to redevelop Gateway?

Colleen: Gateway is for OSTEM purposes, such as reporting students' participation.

Chip: Any other agenda items from our ExComm? None.

Open discussion from the floor? None

Chip: Next month meeting, I propose to cancel it.

Colleen: I'm wondering Leslee and Laurie, any time in the horizon for a combined meeting sort of the state of the union meeting. Has the alliance discussed such a meeting?

Leslee: Maybe raise that with the Alliance.

Laurie: Before the August recess would be an appropriate time to hold a meeting.

Toni: Move to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm ET.

AT Amelia Tangeman (Unverified)

Paulo Oemig

AG **Antoinette Galvin (External)**

AA Arena, Andy (External)

BC Bernard Cole (External)
Organizer

MB Bernards, Matthew ... (External)

BG Brooke Marie Grah... (External)

CC Cathy Cathell (Unverified)

CF Colleen H Fava (External)

CN Colleen's Noteta... (Unverified)

DT Denise Thorsen (External)

DG Douglas J Granger (External)

ED Duke, Edward F. (External)

EW Eric Wilcox (External)

GM GERARDO MORELL MARRER...

LG Gilbert, Leslee (External)

LG Gilbert, Leslee (External)

LK Katz, Laurie (External)

LK Kliment, Linda (External)

LA Leslie Aquino (External)

TL Letcher, Todd (Unverified)