



NM EPSCoR State Committee Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2009
2:00 – 4:00 pm
Hotel Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Attending:

Jack Jekowski (Chair)
Michael Dougher (UNM)
John Montgomery (WNMU)
Linda LaGrange (NMHU)
Anthony Sena (NNMC)
Nam Sauer (LANL)
Kurt Steinhaus (LANL)
Tom Bowles (State of NM)
Stephan Helgesen (State of NM)
Ron Tafoya (Intel)
William Michener (EPSCoR)
Katherine Mitchell (EPSCoR)
Anna Morrato (EPSCoR)

On conference call:

Vimal Chaitanya (NMSU)
Beverlee McClure (ACI)

Meeting called to order 2:10 pm

Introductions

Welcome by Jack Jekowski, Chairman

- The NM EPSCoR climate change research and education agenda is well-positioned at this time considering national and state political and scientific agendas on this topic
- “Right Time and Right Place” for NM EPSCoR

Current RII 3 Overview and Progress

- PowerPoint Presentation by Bill Michener and Katherine Mitchell
- www.nmepscor.org/ - About Us – State Committee
- <http://nmepscor.unm.edu/node/93>

Discussion:

- Jekowski – nice to see the broader impacts focus played out in actual programs and student activities
- Michener – new EPSCoR Track 2 award decision denied funding to states that did not understand/deliver on the broader impacts agenda

EPSCoR State Program News and Activities Update

- PowerPoint Presentation by Bill Michener
- www.nmepscor.org/- About Us – State Committee
- <http://nmepscor.unm.edu/node/93>

Discussion:

- Michener – post card mailings as a means to raise NM EPSCoR exposure, mailed to state legislators and others, 4 times per year; asked for input and suggestions
- Jekowski – new “Climate Change Impacts on Mountain Sources of Water” poster looks good; offer that EPSCoR office will mail printed copies as requested
 - Chaitanya – requested copy
- Michener - comments in addition to Power Point presentation slide content:
 - Strategic Plan –our office and NSF will use it for annual review; available from our website
 - Tri-State Western Consortium – NSF saw the climate change theme similarity among the 3 states of NM, ID and NV and requested a plan for interactions; idea blossomed into a joint annual meeting and collaborations; positioned states well for Track 2 CI proposal collaboration requirement; collaboration builds the critical mass needed for bigger NSF projects and improves our ability to generate good proposals and have higher success rate
 - New NSF EPSCoR C2 RFP will be released in June; amount may be 1 million total or 1 million per year for 2 years; funds for inter and intra-campus connectivity with MSI emphasis; EPSCoR office will work with Tom Bowles and Lenny Martinez
 - Steinhaus: How much is the DOE Lab Partnership award? Its \$200,000 total.
 - External Advisory Committee – scientists asked for a meeting end of 09; accelerated to hold meeting in late August due to NSF reverse site visit in September
 - NSF Reverse Site Visit – in DC on September 14
 - EPSCoR National Meeting – held in Alabama in October around October 20th; no agenda yet; what State Committee members are interested in attending? Need to contact Michener if they would like to come

Committee Member Vacancies: Tribal Colleges and Business Sector

Discussion:

- Jekowski – discussed lack of representation by the tribal colleges; suggested Valerie Montoya, VP of Academic Affairs at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), and asked to put her name in nomination
- Steinhaus – moved to recommend Valerie Montoya as a representative to the State Committee
- Sena– seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously by the group and will be forwarded to the Council University Presidents (CUP) for approval
- Bowles – discussed Tom Davis, Navajo Technical College (NTC) as a possible representative; need for Tom Davis to attend meetings by distance technologies; offered new Gateway system being installed as an option; EPSCoR office will contact Tom Davis and ascertain his interest
- Sena – Mark Bauer from Dine as a possible committee member
- Michener – NSF does not consider Dine a New Mexico school because its main office is in Arizona
- Jekowski – asked McClure for assistance in increasing participation from the private sector; Beverly agreed to solicit interest and suggest names

Committee Member Vacancies: Co-Chair position

Discussion:

- Jekowski – discussed whether the NM Secretary of Higher Education should have a permanent position as Co-Chair on the State Committee; current Secretary is Dr. Peter White; Jack talked to Chair of CUP, Dr. Dan Lopez to make him aware of the suggestion
- Jack suggested if this is approved by the CUP we consider changing the By-Laws to reflect the policy - does this position require a change to the by laws or not?
- Chaitanya – Does the Deputy Secretary of Higher Education serve as an alternate if the Secretary cannot attend? Is Dr. Bill Flores still the Deputy Secretary?
- Jekowski – recommended that the Deputy Secretary be an alternate to the Secretary and be a full participant in the committee
- LaGrange – stated it was a reasonable approach; motioned to recommend to the CUP that the Secretary serve as permanent Co-Chair and the Deputy as an alternate; unanimous approval

New Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Peter White

Discussion:

- Jekowski – discussed Secretary White’s appointment and issues discussed in the release of his first newsletter
 - Recommended change in higher education funding formula
 - “Toolbox Revisited” article and achievement criterion for high school students
 - Proposed UNM Rio Ranch campus and NMSU Dona Ana campus as alternative 4-year institutions

NSF Emerging Directions

Discussion:

- Jekowski – Obama Administration Office of Science and Technology white papers on science investment
 - Climate change science R&D called out (page 8)
- Jekowski – Responsibility of the State of NM and NM EPSCoR to hold a broader picture of science and technology in the state and how it plays a role in benefitting the nation
- PowerPoint Presentation by Bill Michener
- www.nmepscor.org/ - About Us – State Committee
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- Discussion/comments in addition to Power Point presentation slide content:
 - ARI – large multi-million award that is per institution; most NM institutions should pursue these funds; \$200 million in Recovery Act funds
 - 2009 budget – Recovery Act Money went to Research and Related and not other areas; EPSCoR has \$50 million allocated that will go to the C2 award
 - DOE & NSF – less joint funding and partnerships than is desirable especially on climate and energy interface
 - Steinhaus – seen recent advances toward better DOE & NSF linkages especially regards Recovery Act money
 - Jekowski – DOE Recovery Arct funds for ARPA E of \$400 million in FY10
 - Michener – use NM EPSCoR Innovation Working Group (IWG) funds to bring together DOE, labs, Higher Ed to hammer out a climate and energy proposal
 - NSF total budget is predicted by NSF to double in years from 2006 – 2016
 - Lesson is that this is a great time to encourage faculty to put together some competitive NSF proposals

State of NM Science and Technology Plan

- PowerPoint Presentation by Tom Bowles
- www.nmepscor.org/- About Us – State Committee
- <http://nmepscor.unm.edu/node/93>
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- Jekowski – Introduced Tom Bowles and Stephan Helgesen and commented that the current political infrastructure supports the State S&T Plan
- Jekowski – updates to the Research Investment Landscape map; addition of the NM Research Applications Center (NM RAC)
- Tom Bowles acknowledged NM EPSCoR's role in promoting the need for, and assisting with the S&T Plan – the first of its kind ever produced by New Mexico.
- Jekowski – commented that this will be well received by NSF. Michener – commented that this plan will serve as the basis for future RII proposal calls.
- Discussion/comments in addition to Power Point presentation slide content:
 - Overarching goal of S&T Plan is to improve the standard of living for New Mexicans by moving increasingly to a high tech economy
 - NM RAC – by legislated statute (S.B. 209), a private, non-profit organization that can take State funds and support collaboratory research efforts by industry, universities, and all entities; RAC will serve as a central clearinghouse and coordinate proposals for federal Recovery Act – for eg. Green Grid
 - NM CAC – status is that it did not received legislative funding; discussion of LFC report; Albq Jrnl article on LFC report; NM CAC refuted LFC inaccuracies through documentation and corrected information; NM CAC will have an Albq Jrnl article reply
 - NM CAC – importance to EPSCoR through the Gateways being installed at every Higher Ed institution in the State; Gateway rollout will begin late summer; deferring the Gateway installations by 9 months reduced the cost by a factor of 3 due to newer technologies at lower costs
 - Green Grid – goal is to know risks and return on investment well enough to spur venture capitalists to invest in demonstration projects; Japan METI will partner and invest \$60 Mill in an Albq demonstration project; Recovery Act state match requirement is a constraint but under discussion and Japanese partners should also count towards match
 - Sauer – who is lead on Green Grid proposal?
 - Bowles – NM RAC, if stood up by due date, would submit proposal
 - Steinhaus – Tom Bowles has been outstanding as Science Advisor to the Governor. Kudos repeated by Jekowski, remarking on the difficulties associated with coordinating among so many diverse interests, and the significance of the accomplishment that had long been sought by NSF for every EPSCoR state.

Proposed Agenda Items for the Fall State Committee Meeting

- Michener – suggests two important topics for the fall meeting:
 - 1) Workforce Development as an issue that NSF is strongly incorporating into all awards; invite NSF participation
 - 2) DOE-NSF partnerships
- Jekowski – requested whether Nan Sauer and Marie Garcia could help build an NSF & DOE collaboration agenda for the fall meeting

- Sauer – agreed to assist; NNSA labs have a growing relationship with the Office of Science; probably will ask Office of Science Project Director at LANL to talk with us on DOE landscape and how it relates to NSF
- Follow up on ARPA E – what has gone on up to now and what can this committee do to seed opportunities in nano-technology
- Jekowski – need to get feedback from Bowles and Helgesen on their legislative priorities and how it links to EPSCoR mission and that of the Higher Ed institutions
- Jekowski – ACI education committee has a workforce development goal; need to include ACI in meeting planning
- Steinhaus – request to have one of the lead Investigators for the RII 3 Climate Change research present on a research area and findings

Hand out materials from the meeting. Available for download from the website.

www.nmepscor.org - Navigate to - About Us – State Committee – Meeting May 09

Or direct link: <http://nmepscor.unm.edu/node/93>

- 1) State Committee Meeting May 09 packet. This is a pdf of all materials distributed at the meeting. Notes below address materials that were not in the packet, or that underwent changes for the final presentation.
- 2) Agenda. Pdf file.
- 3) EPSCoR RII 3 Broader Impact Areas. This is a pdf of a Power Point slide illustrating the important role played by NSF's "Broader Impact" criterion. *(Not included in packet)*
- 4) EPSCoR RII 3 Project Update and Program News and Activities. This is a pdf file of the Power Point presentation given by William Michener and Katherine Mitchell. *(Version has some changes from the one included in the packet)*
- 5) Office of Science and Technology 2010 Policy and Budget. This is a pdf of the Obama Administration science policy and budget priorities.
- 6) New Mexico Science and Technology Plan Update. This is a pdf of the Power Point presentation given by Tom Bowles, Governor Science Advisor. *(Not included in the packet)*.
- 7) NSF Emerging Issues. This is a pdf of the Power Point presentation on NSF FY 2009 and FY 2010 budget information given by William Michener. *(Not included in the packet)*.
- 8) Notice of Appointment of new Secretary of Education. This is a pdf of the announcement from the Governor's office. *(Not included in the packet)*.
- 9) Newsletter from new Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Peter White. This is a pdf of the May 26, 2009 newsletter from Secretary White with education policy overview. *(Not included in the packet)*.
- 10) "Toolbox Revisited" paper. This is a pdf of the paper cited by Secretary of Higher Education White. *(Not included in the packet)*.
- 11) Poster: New Mexico Research Landscape. This is a pdf of an updated version of the poster.
- 12) Poster: Climate Change Impacts on New Mexico's Mountain Sources of Water. This is a pdf of the new EPSCoR RII 3 poster. *(Not included in the packet)*.