LTER Executive Committee Meeting Notes:

Sites need to send their proposals, (at least abstracts) to NET.

The Network Office needs to better communicate what the staff is doing.

LTER needs to have people to commit time to serve within NSF.

A significant discussion centered around new efforts of the Network Office versus support of the U.S. LTER program. Commonalities and efficiency of effort were discussed as well as the importance to link to other international programs.

Money for workshops pointed out that a number could be funded if the costs were kept down. Integrating a workshop(or more) with full CC meetings would be good too.

Discussion of the Network Office suggested that tasks as well as personel were important. Difficulties of suggesting specific functions center around which duties are those of NSF and which serve the LTER network itself. Suggestions for an RFP by NSF on the open competition lead to an importance of listing the tasks that are performed at the Network Office.

Network Office Key Functions:

1. Facilitate cross site research and synthesis activities:
Provide the infrastructure support necessary for communication, data exchange and logistical support.

2. To act as a clearing house and serve as a point of contact for other groups and agencies, including international
Provide support for communication among the U.S. LTER network of sites.

3. To support the governing structure of the LTER Executive and Coordinating Committees.

4. To facilitate the developement and linkages of similar sites in other countries.

These 4 items are also clearly spelled out in the past Network Office competition - which were handed out during the meeting.

Afternoon Meeting - LTER Executive Committee and NSF Representatives

NSF handed out key objectives and activities they plan for the open RFP. Jim Gosz mentioned that the proprosal would also have to accomodate the existing governance structure of LTER. The budget scenerio will range from flat to a 20% reduction. With site funding committments for 1/3 of the sites through the year 2000, including inflationery increases. With current funding, one LTER site cannot be funded. The LTER augmentation will continue through the current and next funding cycle. To do everthing 3 LTER sites would need to be cut. The augmentation is being kept with the thought that the current 2 years has not provided enough data to see if the augmentation experiment is useful. Network office funding is planned at $1m/year, but

additional monies will be needed to support everything. Jerry suggested that the network would probably feel the augmentation should probably go before sites are cut. NSF feels that all site PI, and CC members would be in conflict The proposal deadline is planned for November 1, 1995. Discussion revolving around conflicts lead to the understanding that NSF would any information needed for the RFP. The new Network Office proposal should not contain sysnthesis activities. The main focus should be "networking" the LTER program rather than performing any sysnthesis activities.