

Minutes of the LTER Executive Board Meeting
December 7, 2009; 1-4pm EST; Videoconference

1. Meeting called to order at 1 pm by Chair Phil Robertson; Members attending: Nick Brokaw, Hugh Ducklow, David Foster, Ted Gragson, Corinna Gries, Sarah Hobbie, Dave McGuire, Steve Pennings, Bob Waide, Mark Williams; Unavailable: Sally Holbrook. Also present through item 3: Todd Crawl.
2. Minutes for 17 November 2009 approved by consent.
3. NSF Update
Todd Crawl provided information about the status of NSF's FY10 budget, which is still awaiting conference action; 3 of the 6 climate solicitations expected to be initiated with FY10 funding are in the final stages of NSF approval and expected to be released in early January. The 2011 LTER supplement announcement is also delayed by budget uncertainty but instructions to sites are expected to be resolved shortly. A significant part of the funding will likely be devoted to support for data management; Crawl has been discussing with IMExec at their meetings.
4. Network Synthesis Initiatives
Robertson reported that three of the Synthesis Initiative groups have now requested and received approval for workgroup meetings in December-March, and the fourth has a request on its way. Proposals from the biodiversity group that met at the La Jolla SC meeting and the education group that met at ASM may also come forward by the December 15 deadline.
5. Operational Plan Update
Bob Waide reviewed operational plan status and timeline. Drafts of all sections are circulated. The CI/NIS subcommittee meets on Dec 15 to discuss incorporated comments from NIS and IMC prior to distribution to the external review committee, which meets in mid-January. There were no calls from other EB subcommittees to meet prior to the week of January 25, when the EB will review the entire penultimate draft.
6. Working Group Proposal Evaluation
Twenty-nine working group proposals with a requested funding total of over \$300,000 were received by the December 1 deadline. Each was assigned to three EB members, who prior to this meeting scored proposals on a scale of 1-10 based on criteria outlined in the call for proposals. Each proposal was discussed briefly and ranked. The final ranking has 12 proposals selected for funding with the potential for funding another 3 proposals following clarifications and exploration of the potential for using CI rather than Synthesis funding. Subject to NSF approval we will use funding budgeted for mini-sabbaticals in the LNO proposal to fund additional working groups this year.
7. Active Committees
Robertson noted progress on populating the BioScience prospectus committee, the SC/EB Chair Nominating Committee, the SC Program Committee, and a new Legacy Data Prospectus committee. The latter is in response to an opportunity to acquiring funds for site-based support of NIS efforts.
8. Upcoming meetings
 - a. Jan-Feb TBD
 - b. March 3-5, 2010 (Washington DC)
 - c. April TBD
 - d. May 12-13, 2010 (SC Meeting at PIE)

Meeting adjourned 3:45pm