

Notes from LTER Executive Board Meeting – March 28, 2016

Attending: Frank Davis, Charley Driscoll, Anne Giblin, Michael Goosef, Peter Groffman, Sherri Johnson, Margaret O'Brien, Kari O'Connell, Steve Pennings, Deb Peters, Dan Reed, Bob Waide

Items discussed:

1. Approval of notes from previous meeting
2. Update on Science Council meeting planning:
 - a. Program and logistics coming along well with nicely developed cross-cutting themes for discussion.
 - b. 65 participants altogether.
 - c. Lou Kaplan, Dave Garrison and Peter McCartney from NSF will attend:
 - i. They will join the EB late Tuesday afternoon.
 - ii. They will have a general session with the Science Council on Wednesday evening.
3. Site rotation on the Executive Board (EB):
 - a. This is on the EB page on the intranet; <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/committees/executive-board>
 - b. CDR, MCR, BNZ are joining the board in 2016.
 - c. SEV, JRN and BES are rotating off the board.
4. Education update:
 - a. Carol Blanchette is leaving the LTER National Communications Office (LNCO). The LNCO is starting to recruit a replacement. The LTER Education Committee is ready to help.
 - b. The LNCO is one of many partners on an NSF INCLUDES (Inclusion across the Nation of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science) pre-proposal that is being spearheaded by Erika Zavaleta (UC Santa Cruz). If invited to submit a full proposal, the NCO will work with volunteers from the Education and Diversity Committees on the LTER elements of the full proposal. The ESA also submitted a pre-proposal, with Aaron Ellison as the LTER point person: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16544/nsf16544.htm>
5. Some things we would like to talk about with the representatives from NSF at the Science Council meeting:
 - a. Some science highlights to share
 - b. Saran Twombly retirement, transition to new program officer.
 - c. Discussion about the nature of our network and our by-laws. How does the LTER group at NSF work to make decisions? How should we balance our internal goals and desires with the goals and desires of NSF?
 - d. Minisymposium/visits to DC:
 - i. Is this linked to the advisory committee? Is it an either/or choice? Funds for the advisory committee are in the LNCO budget, can they be rebudgeted for a revisioned minisymposium?
 - ii. A sub-committee (Johnson, Driscoll, Davis, Kominoski, Goosef, Downs, Groffman) has begun meeting to discuss a revisioning.
 - e. Compensation for the LTER chair.
 - f. Update on new site competition.
 - g. LTER and NEON

6. NIMO update:
 - a. Still waiting to hear from NSF but making progress on the transition, e.g., discussion about where will the physical and virtual servers currently at LNO go?
 - b. Planning an annual Information Management Committee Annual Meeting in Santa Barbara with funding from LNCO and the University of Wisconsin the week of August 16 at UCSB. Approximately 40 people.
 - c. Current LNO is waiting to hear on a supplement (PASTA PLUS) to continue past April 1. NSF is asking for clarification of just how PASTA PLUS and NIMO are complementary.

7. By-laws revisions (continued). Please see attached document for progress.

8. Items for future discussion
 - a. Updates on NIMO and PASTA Plus
 - b. LTER Chair renewal
 - c. Science Council
 - i. Science agenda
 - ii. Administrative agenda
 1. Chair
 2. By-laws
 - iii. Things to discuss with NSF at Science Council Meeting
 - d. By-laws