LTER Executive Board Meeting Notes

February 4, 2019

- Executive Board Zoom Link: https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/706470284   or Telephone: US: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833 (Meeting ID: 706 470 284)
- Executive Board Trello Board: https://trello.com/b/vD2zoerp
- Executive Board Google Drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B3xT0TaiQmt0TkQxOVNhMGh0Tkk?usp=sharing

Attending:

Name	Present	Absent
Peter Groffman (chair)	x	
Diane McKnight (chair-elect)	x	
Ken Dunton (BLE)	x	
Sally Holbrook (MCR)		x (interviews)
Michelle Mack (BNZ)		x (traveling)
Oscar Schofield (PAL)	x	
Eric Seabloom (CDR)	x	
Emily Stanley (NTL)	x	
Katie Suding (NWT)	x	
Jess Zimmerman (LUQ)	x	
Annette Brickley(EOC-rep)	x	
Dan Bahauddin (IMC-rep)	x	
Frank Davis (NCO)	x	
Marty Downs (NCO)	x	
Corinna Gries (EDI)	x	

Agenda and Notes

Approve Notes *from* *November Board Meeting* *- tabled for March.*

Carried over from last month:

- Role of the Executive Board chair going forward. Key points:
  - Peter Groffman's term expires at the Science Council meeting in May. Diane McKnight will take over as Chair in May, but Diane isn't allowed to deal with NSF until after June 14, 2019. Peter will continue to be available in that role.
  - Compensation for the chair has changed over time, but NSF's current position is that the chair will not be compensated. With an uncompensated chair, the work that Peter has been doing may need to be more widely distributed. Currently some of the major activities that consume Peter's time are:

- ■ Represent Network in other committees (CZO, NEON, ILTER)
- ■ Help the Network Office govern
- ■ Participate in/lead synthesis work

- ● Discussion
  - ○ The work the chair does benefits all the sites. Could sites pitch in and pay for it themselves?
    - ■ Possibly, but it seems to be circumventing NSF's intention and is also administratively cumbersome.
  - ○ Could the chair at least be reimbursed for travel expenses through NCO or NSF?
  - ○ The policy limits our ability to recruit leadership, especially from soft-money institutions.
  - ○ NSF expects that the chair and the Executive Board will be highly responsive, which makes the position quite different than, for example, a scientific society.

Current topics

- ● **Update/discussion on NCO proposal**
  - ○ Funding level is about $40K per year less than the current grant ($800 rather than $840K per year).
  - ○ Now named the Network Coordination Office, rather than the Network Communications Office.
  - ○ Governance costs will be similar.
  - ○ An annual NSF symposium is specified.
  - ○ They seem to be asking for smaller synthesis activities (specified 8-10 per group).
  - ○ We could keep the calls for proposals wide open or make some of them more thematically focused. If there is interest in that, how would we decide on themes? Would the Executive Board help with that process?
    - ■ The way the LNCO has been doing synthesis is a real strength. Several people expressed concerns about constraining the topics.
  - ○ The LNCO can also work to generate additional synthesis funds and would appreciate the ideas and participation of the Executive Board.
- ● **40 year review information request**
  https://lternet.edu/2019-site-information-request/ (pw - 40Y1nf0)
  - ● Leveraging: the request went out to sites, then was simplified. Resolved to list of large grants with short narrative of facilities/personnel.
  - ● Publications: The LNCO is not asking people to make a distinction between LTER funded and LTER-related, but is asking sites to be very cautious about going farther afield.
  - ● Supporting Network analysis. Has anyone had any thoughts about a metric that would demonstrate the network's outsized influence. maybe something like the the spread of people who have come through the network?
  - ● We could put together a survey, say of former REU students, and make it available through ESA or AGU.

- We could put those LTER-"inspired" papers in a separate section
- Scientific advances - focus on real big impacts and demonstrate how the LTER structure and qualities have facilitated those impacts.

- **Science Council Plans**
  Draft agenda: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wKFx1oqyi2tCaWHIwKbpEbpPaiKUkmAa
- 5 half day blocks of time
    - Field trip
    - Science Council business meeting
    - Site PI meeting - Diane is organizing the program
        - Topics:
            - What makes a good site visit
            - How do you prepare for a site visit
            - Leadership succession
            - Common challenges and pitfalls
            - How do people deal with their budgets -- how do you allocate funding? By project or by people?
            - Responsibility for long-term data maintenance
            - Research Foundation
            - Conceptual models. A group is working on a paper about this for an LTER and NEON synergy group.
        - Role for NSF?
            - Preference is to keep this meeting PI only.
    - Lightning talks (40 year review)
        - The 40-year self-study committee is trying to generate case studies that demonstrate how scientific accomplishments have been facilitated by the structure and function of the Network
        - Proposing that each PI look at 5-8 themes and identify 3 that they could contribute to.
        - Need to keep the group of themes as small as possible. Be sure to look at NSF's description of the big ideas, especially "convergence."
    - Breakout groups (40 year review)