



## Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2019 from 8:30 am – 9:30 am

1. Roll Call – Marcie Jackson
  - a. Present: Greg Ihde, Dave Archer, Grace Chou, Barbee Oakes, Marcie Jackson, Fred Harris, Lynn Fenstermaker
2. Welcome - Greg Ihde
3. Introduction – Dr. Fred Harris, new NSF EPSCoR Project Director and State EPSCoR Director – Marcie Jackson
  - a. Fred is a Professor in Computer Science at Engineering at UNR. He has been part of project leadership teams for NSF EPSCoR Track-1 and Track-2 projects.
  - b. As NSF EPSCoR Project Director, he will lead the current Track-1 project, the Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada through the extension period. He will also lead the development of the new Track-1 proposal for planned submission in summer 2019.
  - c. As the State EPSCoR Director, he keeps major stakeholders at the universities, System Administration and industry apprised of EPSCoR initiatives and federal issues. He is a liaison with the Nevada delegation and helps keep them informed of the major work Nevada EPSCoR is accomplishing.
4. Introduction – Dr. Barbee Oakes, Minority Serving Institution Representative – Marcie Jackson
  - a. Barbee joined UNLV in 2017 as the Chief Diversity Officer, and she is replacing Carl Reiber as our Minority Serving Institution Representative. We welcome her to the Committee.
5. NSF EPSCoR Track 1 Proposal Status and Determination of Research Team – Dr. Fred Harris
  - a. Track-1 projects are typically five-year projects. \$20,000,000 from NSF and \$4,000,000 required state match. We are prepping for August submission, which would start next school year if funded.
  - b. Researchers were asked to write letters of intent, then pre-proposals that were included a 15-page research plan. Each project had to include researchers from all three research institutions. NSHE has engaged an external consulting team for to handle a panel review of external reviewers, as well as to assist the writing

team throughout the proposal development state. The Implementation Group (TIG) has several former NSF program officers on staff, so their experience is invaluable.

- c. Fred and Marcie met with the Researcher Affairs Council (RAC) and TIG to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals. Nine were submitted and a couple rose to the top. Based on the reviews, the RAC chose Harnessing the Data Revolution for the Science and Management of Wildfires. Fred will now take the idea that has been selected, ensure the right team to do the research is included and do the outreach. The goal is to have a draft in March for external review and do that two more times before it is submitted.
- d. The proposal aims to take some of the existing infrastructure modeling to help improve the prediction of wildfires. Also included is research on the health problem issues with the smoke and air quality. The research will look at modifications of the eco system when the ground gets partially burned versus when scorched. How long does it take for things to grow back? What kind of sensors can we use to capture the data? The project also proposes to use drones during fires to measure gas emissions.
- e. Committee Reactions:
  - i. Timely idea and very important to Nevada. The devastation from fires the last few years is extreme.
  - ii. If we put them out faster – they will pay for themselves.
  - iii. Having the project plan to create a STC on this topic is a worthy goal.
  - iv. There is a tremendous amount of information out there that would feed the models.
  - v. Integrated research among universities is only a positive.
  - vi. The committee approves this pre-proposal for full proposal development.

## 6. NASA EPSCoR Rapid Response Proposal Update – Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker

- a. NASA created this new funding opportunity as an experiment. NASA wants to use some of the EPSCoR funding to build collaborations between NASA Center researchers, EPSCoR researchers, and where appropriate, industry. They identified eight critical topics to be funded at \$100,000 per project in the fall.
- b. Nevada has received notification that we will be awarded one RRR from the initial solicitation. The project was supposed to start in January, but the government shut down has delayed the start date.
- c. NASA released an amended RFP for six new topics. We are in the letter of interest phase for this funding. NSHE has received eight letters of interest for four of the six topics. Full proposals due February 22, unless the federal shutdown adjusts that schedule.
- d. Lynn is asking researchers who have submitted letters for the same topic to work together. If not, the technical advisory committee will review and choose which will go forward.

- e. RID – Latest proposal was successful – we will receive a new RID in the summer
7. NASA CAN Proposal – Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker
- a. NSHE ran solicitation asking researchers to submit pre-proposals. These projects are similar to NSF Track-1 proposals. The eight pre-proposals were sent out for external reviewer. Fei Fei Fan from UNR most responsive. It is the most tightly integrated proposal Lynn has seen since she has been PD. The project focuses on high energy density battery materials for low temperature environments which helps with NASA's space mission. The full proposal was submitted right before Christmas. Generally these projects have a July 1 start date. However, shut down might also delay.
8. Other NASA funding
- a. The latest Research Infrastructure Development (RID) proposal was successful. We will receive funding in the summer.
  - b. There is one other pot of funding that Nevada is not eligible for because we have not had a prior award with ISS. Eligible projects receive a \$300,000 award to work with NASA Centers on getting an experiment into payload package to space station.
9. New Business
- a. Fred would like to interact with more committee members and really utilize their expertise to help guide the direction of EPSCoR projects in Nevada. The Research Affairs Council (RAC) has also expressed an interest in having more contact with the NVEAC. Committee members indicated they would be willing and interested in that.
    - i. Fred invited ideas to come to him. He can be reached at [fred.harris@cse.unr.edu](mailto:fred.harris@cse.unr.edu) and 775-784-6571.
  - b. Graced asked if the Committee had any involvement with SBIR/STTR as Nevada is the bottom of funded project. That is not part of the scope of EPSCoR; however, we can encourage campuses to become more involved in submitting proposals. Fred will also push this with the RAC.
    - i. Dave feels industry does not know about this funding opportunity. He is happy to include an article about it in his newsletter that goes out every two weeks. Fred will try to get a 200-400 word article completed for him this spring.
  - c. DARPA is a totally different thing, doesn't fit the academic calendar well. It is done in stages and funding can be cut at any time.
  - d. Greg reminded the Committee about AFWERKS (<https://afwerxdc.org/>) which invites entrepreneurs to come present their ideas. Principally Air Force involved, but funding comes quickly. They are looking at getting funds to the field faster.