

**ESIP Federation
Executive Committee Telecon
August 10, 2006
Minutes**

Participants: Bruce Caron; LuAnn Dahlman; Danny Hardin; Chuck Hutchinson; Marty Landsfeld; Tamara Ledley; Chris Lenhardt; Carol Meyer; Jami Montgomery; Rob Raskin; Dick Wertz; Tom Yunck;

Dick Wertz welcomed the many new members of the ESIP Federation's Executive Committee. He invited all members to submit agenda items to Carol Meyer, and noted that the Executive Committee meets monthly, on the second Thursday of each month at 2 pm Eastern.

I. Adoption of Minutes

Bruce Caron made a motion to adopt the minutes, seconded by Chris Lenhardt. The minutes were adopted unanimously, as drafted.

II. Discussion of Procedures for Adoption of ESIP Policy Positions

President Hutchinson noted that the ESIP Federation should be in a position to take an independent stand on policy issues that impact most or all of its members. The ESIP Federation's bylaws require that the Assembly unanimously consent to resolutions that are binding on partners. For the type of policy positions envisioned, the resolutions would be non-binding.

Bruce Caron raised the idea there should be a process by which positions could be commented upon by partners outside the ESIP Federation. Several years ago, a draft document was prepared that addressed some procedures which might apply here. It was suggested that formal procedures for communication, review and comment would be important.

Chris Lenhardt inquired whether there are restrictions on the ESIP Federation because of the many federal partners that are represented, along with the federal funding that is received by the organization. President Hutchinson noted that other membership organizations (e.g. AAAS, AGU) take policy positions.

The immediate opportunities to comment on policy are the Electronic Geophysical Year declaration and concerns about the revised NASA mission statement, which removes language related to protecting Earth.

Tamara Ledley noted that it is important for the ESIP Federation to understand why it is considering a policy statement in the first place and who the intended audience is. Tamara Ledley briefly explained the AGU model for adopting policy. Tom Yunck noted that the ESIP Federation should not be taking a position on NASA's administrative stand to remove Earth science-related language from its mission statement.

In principle, the Executive Committee agrees that the ESIP Federation should be able to make policy statements. Staff will investigate the ESIP Federation's position with respect to its receiving federal funding and its making policy statements. As a follow on, the Committee believes it needs endorsement from the Assembly to take specific

positions. Tamara Ledley and Carol Meyer will prepare an overview of how AGU adopts policy and will circulate to the Committee.

III. Review of Policy Position Suggested by Peter Fox, NCAR in Support of the Electronic Geophysical Year (<http://www.egy.org/declaration.html>)

Peter Fox of NCAR requested that the ESIP Federation join as a partner to the Declaration for a Geoscience Information Commons. The Declaration is in line with what the ESIP Federation is doing with regard to data access, interoperability and preservation. Much discussion centered on whether the Executive Committee has the authority to make policy decisions on behalf of the ESIP Federation. Consensus was that all policy decisions should be treated procedurally the same. A procedure for soliciting input, along with how to develop a policy itself will be drafted for the September Executive Committee meeting.

IV. Report on site visit for the Winter Meeting in Portland, Oregon

Carol Meyer reported that she visited 4 Portland, Oregon hotels earlier in the week, of which 2-3 are still under consideration. Final proposals are expected within the week and a decision will be made by September 1 as to the venue.

Chris Lenhardt suggested that the ESIP Federation continue to work with local hosts, who might help defray the costs of future meetings by holding them at member institutions.

Bruce Caron reported that the Meeting Visioneering group will be meeting on Monday, August 14 to talk about the Summer 07 ESIP Federation meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The group will be discussing new meeting formats, including a self-organizing meeting structure. He invited Executive Committee members to participate on the call.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07, with the next meeting scheduled for September 14, 2006.