

## **WEST VIRGINIA SCIENCE AND RESEARCH COUNCIL**

### **July 19, 2012**

A meeting of the West Virginia Science and Research Council was held in South Charleston at the West Virginia Regional Technology Park on July 19, 2012; at 10:30 a.m. Meeting notification was properly provided as required by state code through the office of the Secretary of State. A notebook of materials was mailed to members in advance. Attendance was as follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Paul Hill  
Dr. Orlando McMeans  
Kay Goodwin  
Dr. John Maher  
Dr. Charles Somerville  
Brian Bell  
Jack Carpenter, via phone  
Dr. Bojan Cukic  
Dr. Fred King, via phone  
Dr. Pamela Balch  
Dr. Gary Rankin

#### **OTHERS**

Marty Burke, representative for Dr. Jorea Marple  
Neal Vance, representing Keith Burdette  
David Lederman  
Nikki Hoffman  
Kelly Merritt  
Annette Echols

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

-After declaring a quorum was present, Dr. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Dr. Hill welcomed the group and introduced Nikki Hoffman, a Division of Science and Research summer intern from West Virginia University. He provided updates regarding the WV Regional Technology Park including additional space acquired by West Virginia State University in Building 740, MATRIC's interest in occupying one of the pilot plants and Building 2000 being 50% completed with 100 faculty of Kanawha Valley Community & Technical College arriving in August, along with 1,600 students. He also indicated that the architecture work for Building 770 is midway through.

-Dr. McMeans announced the news of their new president for WVSU, Dr. Hemphill. As a result, the WVSU Research and Development Corporation have been charged with multiple changes including dropping the word "development" from its name. Dr. Orlando is chairing this group.

-Ms. Hoffman announced that there is a new Facebook page for West Virginia Science and Research.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

-Dr. Hill asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the minutes were approved.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Federal Programs:

##### **NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track 1**

-In Dr. Taylor's absence, Dr. Hill reported that an annual report for the NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement grant was filed on May 2 but to date, it has not been approved by NSF. An RFP for the Primarily Undergraduate Institutions Incubator program, part of the NSF RII Track 1 grant, was released. The proposals were due July 16. The only applicant was the University of Charleston. Dr. David Lederman, Technical Leader at WVU, made a brief presentation to the Council regarding the progress of the Track 1 program.

Discussion following Dr. Lederman's presentation included questions regarding the need to create a private sector committee to address the concern "research is good but is it practical?". The most recent review from external advisors was not as concerned with this area but Council members thought an industry review would be advisable. Dr. King indicated such a review could be funded by the Benedum Project at WVU. He suggested that we talk to Lindsay Emery. Neal Vance (Department of Commerce) also indicated that they could provide assistance with the project.

Group discussion continued with the topics of reduced research funding and retention. Retention continues to be a problem as we develop the faculty but then lose them. Is there a program to keep them? Can we develop a policy to document this? Do we start over every 5 years? We can't sustain if we let our top leaders go. Dr. Somerville noted that we are not competitive for the top folks; our Junior Faculty members are satisfactory but we are still lacking senior leadership. Dr. Lederman suggested a long-term strategic plan from the state level, not the university level. There seems to be a lack of coordination between the two. Examples he provided were NC Research Triangle and GA Tech. Mr. Bell noted that Huntsville AL has a program that links their Chamber of Commerce with universities and over 200 people collaborate and go to Washington DC each year. Secretary Goodwin stated that we should use the departures as part of our success story. She posed the question that if more funds were available, could we get these folks to return to WV.

### **EPSCoR 2030**

-Dr. Hill stated that a new group entitled the Future of Research has emerged and has stopped short of saying that small states don't need their own research. He is hopeful that the EPSCoR 2030 report has countered this group's effort.

### **NIH**

-The IDeA INBRE grant is up for renewal. The NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) was dissolved and its' programs were re-assigned to other NIH Institutes and Centers.

State Programs:

### **Research Challenge Grants**

-3 new Research Challenge Grants were awarded July 1. The old awards expired June 30 and the institutions have 60 days to closeout and provide final reports.

### **Research Trust Fund**

-WVU has completed the drawdown of funds from the WV Trust Fund. MU has \$6 million remaining but they are expecting to complete their requests soon. Currently, there are enough interest earnings to provide funding for 2 new PUI awards.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

-Ms. Echols presented the Division of Science and Research's spending plan for Fiscal Year 2013. Council approved the spending plan as presented.

### **EVENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

-Mr. Merritt summarized the success of the STAR Symposium, reviewed key components of the RII Strategic Plan and indicated that the staff was on track to produce the Division's annual reports for years 2011-2012 by year end. He updated the group on the status of Vision 2015; there are still some sections that need revisions

-Mr. Merritt announced Undergraduate Research Day and a Summer Research day for students at Marshall University.

-West Teays Elementary School Teacher Barbara 'Tootie' Black received the West Virginia Academy of Sciences Teacher of the Year award at the STaR Symposium.

-Ms. Burke invited the Council to attend an upcoming presentation by Dr. Brian Green on October 4 and the Culture Center. Funds to bring Dr. Green to West Virginia were provided to the Department of Education via a private grant.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.