

## State Committee for Research Meeting Agenda

**Date:** June 6, 2018

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Teleconference:** Dial 866-832-7806, enter PIN 1827406

**In Person Location:** UA-Bragaw Office Building, 1815 Bragaw Street, Anchorage, AK 99508

**Attendees:** Larry Hartig, Denise Thorsen, Larry Hinzman (Phone), Albert Kookesh, Mark Meyer, Anupma Prakash, Paul Layer, Brian Barnes, Mead Treadwell, Susan Henrichs, Alex Hills, John Bitner, and Jim Henson.

Started: 1:37 pm

1. Update on SCoR leadership changes – Paul, 5 min  
Paul has been appointed the permanent VP for Academics, Students & Research at UA. As part of this position, the President has asked Paul to take over co-chair of SCoR. Thank you to Larry Hinzman for filling this position in the transition. Larry has also been filling in on the Research Coalition, and Paul will also take this on. Paul is currently getting up to speed with both SCoR and EPSCoR.
2. Review and approve 2/21/18 meeting summary – Paul, 5 min. (*attachment*)
  - a. No objections, meeting summary approved.
3. Action item update from 2/21/18 meeting – Paul, 5 min.
  - a. Nycolett sent out a doodle poll.
  - b. Larry Hartig will follow up with Heidi Drygas and Dan Robinson regarding an Alaska Trends magazine article on research.
  - c. Larry Hartig will get feedback from SCoR for the Climate Action Leadership Team. They have had one meeting with a second meeting on Friday. Larry – will distribute the membership list.
  - d. Larry will put together a SCoR Alaska Innovators article for submission to the newspapers. – Larry did not get this written.
  - e. UA system wide office and Research Council across the university with faculty and staff representation to have a joint teleconference to discuss Science and Technology opportunities in Alaska – there was good feedback in both directions. SCoR is a valuable tool for the research leads at the university. It would be helpful for the Research Committee and SCoR to know what each other is working on. It would also be helpful for Paul to know what SCoR wants to be involved in, in terms of the state, and how we want it to work with the university. Paul will work with Larry Hinzman to set up this meeting.
4. Update SCoR bylaws – Paul, 10 min. (*attachment*)
  - a. The bylaws were written in 2009. Paul is asking the committee to look at these and clarify some of the confusion. Anupma – In the past, the VCR did take on the leadership of NSF Alaska EPSCoR, but there were also other EPSCoR areas that he was overseeing at that time. He was named, at that time, the director of the EPSCoR program, which was more than just the NSF EPSCoR. There is now more than just the NSF, also NASA, INBRE and now the upcoming military EPSCoR. These are individually directed (Denise, Anupma, Brian) and then added as ex officio. Paul does not see a need for a state director to oversee all of these. In other states it is not uncommon for the state director to be in the office of the director.

- b. Lt. Governor Byron Mallott is also co-chair and Albert Kookesh is representing him today. The co-chair is a very valuable position/relationship and may need to be better represented.
  - c. The NSF director represents the NSF team. Paul will coordinate this with the directors to see if there is a need. Anupma and Brian do visits together and this works well. The federal agencies try to coordinate all of the meetings at the same time. EPSCoR and INBRE are coordinated at the same time, but NASA takes a separate time because of when the Space Grant meets.  
ACTION ITEM: Paul will make the 3 EPSCoR directors now ex officio.  
ACTION ITEM: All - Look at the bylaws to see if there are any changes needed. Will have a draft at the next meeting, then send it to the president for his affirmation.
  - d. Mead appreciated being on SCoR as Lt. Governor and recommends keeping the Lt. Governor involved. The Lt. Governor has about 4 boards to be involved in. Each Lt. Governor often chooses which ones they want to go to and which to send a delegate. He is hopeful that the next administration will have a closer role in the program.
  - e. Paul likes the idea of a statewide executive Alaska EPSCoR director, someone separate from the vice president or Lt. Governor, that has more of a statewide responsibility and can raise visibility. It was recommended in the past to have a science/research advisor. Right now the relationship with the governor's office through the co-chairs has been working well and will depend on SCoR's direction. Will return to this conversation in the winter meeting.
5. State of Alaska Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team – Nikoosh Carlo/Danielle Meeker, 15 min.
- a. Larry – Having a public comment call at this time. We have been accepting public comments on this now for several weeks. Larry Hartig explains the public comment period is almost over, but SCoR could comment as well. He suggests it may be better to go through the science advisory panel, that way Larry could put them in contact with the correct people. We can compile the recommendations and submit them through SCoR and through the advisory panel. Paul believes having a SCoR statement would be helpful and is asking for comments from the board. ACTION: All - Look at the proposal and get feedback to Larry regarding the Alaska Climate Action.
6. Establishment of SCoR Outreach and Communications – Paul/Mead T., 10 min.
- a. Mead – Primarily a follow up on how we do the Innovation for next year. Larry - Have an integrated plan, going back to where SCoR wants to be and outreach should be directed this way. Paul – Promote research and development. How do we want to reach out (be more external) in terms of research?
    - i. Create a database of innovators projects. Build a marketing base to create a database. There is an overall lack of public awareness of research and workforce development.
    - ii. Historically, the regents have been interested in high tech applicable research.
  - b. Check with the Lt. Governor to see if this is something he wants on his website. Research should be part of every single class. If there is a state research plan, it has to be actionable and it has to be visible. Create an adaptive research plan that builds on small success rates and shows tangible benefit.
7. Role of SCoR in Alaskan Science and Technology – Paul, 15 min.
- a. Larry – Attempts were made over the last couple of years to emphasize to the state the practical research needs of the state. SCoR could help translate that information and the

role that the university is playing to the state, being an advocate for UA research and the university.

- b. National Lab Day last week - 12 of the directors from 17 labs here at one time. The combined budgets were \$28M. They do want to invest more work in Alaska and the Arctic. They are focused on the US Arctic (that's us). We are addressing technical issues, diversifying the economy and bringing in resources to the state. SCoR is a key bridge for bringing resources to the state. Paul is hopeful that National Lab Day will draw research to the state.
8. Health initiatives – How to integrate SCoR with the Legislature – Paul, 15 min.
- a. Request for vitamin D research that came out of UAA - should SCoR vet these proposals? Consider the top 3 things and conveying it to the BOR and representatives. More support is needed within the university, such as lobbying. There was a tie to the legislature that helped the vitamin D (political connection).
    - i. There is the budget side to consider. Internal lobbying is part of it. The legislature generally doesn't get interested in research, other than oil and gas. They do want to know who is doing the research and if it isn't UA, then they want to know why.
    - ii. Mead –Encourages SCoR to be tied overall to endowment transactions.
  - b. Bylaws on SCoR are not just limited to the university. There is research happening outside of the university. SCoR thinks about the broader reach of research and how to link the university with the outer research areas. UA coordinated research to meet the needs of the federal agencies. Lobbying by the university in Juneau has paid off this year (Miles Baker). The universities need to align their priorities with that of the state's.
    - i. The university researchers need to be connected with SCoR.
    - ii. Part of Paul's new role will be working with DoD and military.
    - iii. Larry Hinzman had initiated a research expert guide at the university. Senator Murkowski uses this database for experts. Journalists use this when they want to get a story. Anupma uses it for students who are looking for resources.
9. Update on Alaska Trends magazine article on research – L. Hartig, 5 min.
- a. The article is scheduled to come out March 2019. Larry Hinzman is coordinating to get it printed. He will have a discussion with Dan Robinson in the next few weeks and see where he is at. How are UA graduates benefiting the state and how is UA benefitting the state. Dan is very cautious about his involvement with the university to maintain integrity and remain unbiased. It will be interesting to see where he finds ties.

ACTION ITEM: Larry Hinzman – Get an update on the conversation with Dan Robinson on the Alaska Trends magazine article on research.

10. Innovators Hall of Fame – Jon Bittner, 15 min.
- a. Nominations – Halibut Hook, Dr. Kelly Drew, Dr. Halloway and Dr. Swanson. Fall is coming up and that is the next nomination period. Last year there were only 4 nominations. The committee needs to advertise better so we can have more than one person doing all of the nominations. Develop a strategy that expands the reach. Jon was new to this last year, but has a better understanding this year. He will take suggestions on improvement. Would like to launch the notice earlier (August).
  - b. Innovators Hall of Fame – Permanent display – Paul, (*attachment*)  
Paul – Where is the best location for it? Mead would like it at the airport, but it is expensive. The traveling display may be easier to take around. Questions of budget was brought up previously, as was having one at each of the university (museum or library wall) and at the airport.

- i. Larry – Just a few weeks ago he provided materials to the Lt. Governor for researchers related to climate for display in Juneau. He suggests placing near the legislature. Space is a premium at the capital and legislature approval is needed for any space.
      - ii. Anupma – Information that changes will draw attention with names on the side. Display on a monitor.
      - iii. Paul – A display can educate the general public that this is of value. Who is the target audience? The goal is to get people excited about the important things that happen up here.
      - iv. Is there a way to have Alaska innovation as part of the curriculum in school? Larry – it is hard at a secondary level, but it may be something on the elementary level. The structure is strict and it wouldn't be easy to get into the school system.
      - v. Anyone interested in the Innovators Hall of Fame subcommittee, Jon is taking volunteers.
    - c. Innovators Hall of Fame – Traveling display – Jon Bittner
    - d. Innovators Hall of Fame – Update Rules and Regulations – Paul, (*attachment*)
      - i. Paul – Call for nominations draft – ACTION ITEM: Paul would like everyone to look at the draft of the Innovators Hall of Fame Rules and Regulations. Would like to get that finalized this summer to use this fall. Looking at indigenous inventions would be a good category to add. A very valuable addition by SE. Will work on getting that out soon. Jon – Would like to consider self-nominations to increase the submissions. Interest in the spring with the Hall of Fame, then the nominations in the fall.
11. EPSCoR update – Anupma Prakash, 10 min.
- a. Anupma – Confidential: NSF has recommended Alaska EPSCoR program for funding. There is a recommendation, but not yet funded. It will be a 5-year award.
    - i. She did attend the project director meeting in May. Good updates –Federal funding will go down, but all funding will be increased for FY19. The biggest increase was NIH. This is a good year to be putting in proposals. There has been some good advocacy for funding and some vicious attacks to try to get small states eliminated from the funding pool. There has been a push for the criteria to be revisited and rewritten to exclude the smaller funded states out of the funding pool. Thank you to SCoR for advocating for our state.
    - ii. The agency has moved to a new building, which has much more security. There has been an NSF meeting. There is a focus on big data, navigating the new arctic and a focus on convergence research and diversity.
12. NASA EPSCoR update – Denise Thorsen, 10 min.
- a. The president eliminated the Office of Education last year, which caused chaos with the NASA program. Because of this, there wasn't a call for funding. Had an extension instead.
    - i. There was a solicitation this year. Submitted a 3-year proposal yesterday. NASA EPSCoR does not have to define research, only objectives. Gives small grants to groups for research. Finds areas that overlap and uses these to define areas of research.
    - ii. Growth area – aeronautics research. There isn't one in the state, or labeled as such. Getting outside areas to apply for support is difficult.

- iii. National NASA EPSCoR Committee – Get our faculty at the centers to develop collaborative relationships, promote commercialization and collaboration with industry.
  - iv. NASA is going to put on a small business 2-day road tour in Hawaii this year to meet with industry. The university is considered a small business – will collaborate and become involved.
13. INBRE Update – Brian Barnes, 5 min.
- a. Beginning year 5 and has submitted the renewal application for another 5 years of funding. Should hear about it in the fall. Has recommended another \$800,000 for next year.
    - i. Student training, research experiences, and a new program created sustaining research with a focus on developing faculty to where they are independently funded. A lot of faculty become successful and then leave the state with funding from outside. Funding to buy out teaching so they have more time to conduct research and assist with larger grants to keep them in the state.
  - b. One Health – A program to fund change in research on safe harvests, gastric and breast cancer in Alaska natives, and therapies for treating heart attacks and strokes.
14. Next meeting – Paul, 5 min.  
ACTION ITEM: Quarterly meeting: Kelly will poll everyone for dates and times for the next meeting in the fall.
15. Future topics/Roundtable – All, time remaining  
Mark – Congratulations on the EPSCoR funding.  
Brian – Thanks to Paul for taking on the job of VP.  
Paul – Congratulations to Susan on her impending retirement.  
Mead – Retiring in the fall.

Adjourned: 3:34 pm

6/6/18 SCoR Meeting Action Items:

ACTION ITEM: Paul will make the 3 EPSCoR directors now ex officio.

ACTION ITEM: All - Look at the bylaws to see if there are any changes needed. Will have a draft at the next meeting, then send it to the president for his affirmation.

ACTION ITEM: Larry Hinzman – Get an update on the conversation with Dan Robinson on the Alaska Trends magazine article on research.

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