

State Committee for Research Meeting Summary

Date: February 20, 2019

Time: 10:30 – 12:00 p.m.

In Person Location: Hammond Room, Centennial Hall, Juneau

Attendees: Paul Layer, Anupma Prakash, Mark Myers, Larry Hinzman, Brian Holst, Lt. Gov. Kevin Meyer, Jon Bittner, Pips Veazey, Aimee Devaris, Tom Thornton, Kelly James (scribe)

1. Review and approve 11/28/18 meeting summary – Paul, 5 min. (*attachment*) – Approved as written.
2. Action item update from 11/28/18 meeting – Paul, 5 min. (*attachment*) – Reviewed.
3. Update SCoR bylaws – Paul, 10 min. (*attachment*) – Bylaws were reviewed and modified to match actions of the committee and structure. Anupma likes the edits. Paul proposes the bylaws are accepted and move to the president for his review and request to approve.
 - a. Review of Membership – Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer accepts the position of co-chair of SCoR. Paul invites Lt. Gov. Meyer to include members of his cabinet to join the committee. A letter will be sent to reaffirm and reappoint members. The membership is posted on the website.
 - i. Jon Bittner has participated not as a member of SCoR, but only as a participant of Innovators Hall of Fame. Paul would like to formally invite Jon to be a member of SCoR.
 - ii. Beyond the Innovators Hall of Fame, what other purposes does the committee serve? What is the purpose of the committee? Larry – This committee has offered needs for the state and direction, and has responded to those needs and directed research. Anupma – The need for advocacy and contributions to the state is going to be important. A greater role on research advocacy would be important in the future. Paul – Partnership with the state is important to emphasize.
4. National update - Paul, 5 minutes – We now have appropriations and therefore EPSCoR and EPSCoR-like programs are well supported. There is also funding for DoD programs. Paul will be attending the EPSCoR meeting next week in DC and will provide feedback

from this meeting. We have a firm in DC that we work with and will be going over to the Hill and meeting with senators and others. Dustin Bryant is the new liaison and is assisting. Larry – The biggest threat to our funding at this time is if it is changed over to a “per capita” funding. Mark – The NSF grant is very much a statewide program for the university. Larry – NIH has also been beneficial for the state. Paul – These grants have helped to build communities.

5. Discuss Alaska Research Priorities – Lt. Gov/Rep, 10 min – The governor and Lt. Governor are looking forward to working with SCoR. Most of his background has been in the private sector. Just retired from Conoco Phillips when elected as Lt. gov. The new administration is going to have a new perspective and different priorities going forward than the previous administration.
 - a. Public safety – Crime rates going up. The governor would like to make changes to Senate Bill 91 and make even nonviolent crimes have consequences. At the same time, drug addicted criminals receive help. Alaska is still top of the nation on sexual assault and needs to be addressed. An educated society reduces crime. We provide the most funding towards education, yet have the lowest results.
 - b. Resource development – The state has a lot of resources available and the governor would like to encourage this. Whatever the committee can do to help make these resources easier to access in an environmentally responsible manner. Limited impact on the environment.
 - c. Jobs/Economic Development – How do you diversify the economy? Help find other areas of income. Tourism is an area of interest. How do we grow the private sector? How do we attract more businesses? The university plays a big role in this. Conoco Philips uses the university a lot.
 - d. Budget – Try to figure out the right amount of the state to be spending. Alaska spends more per capita than any other state. We do not know if this is appropriate. The current budget is what meets our revenue. The budget introduced is creating a lot of much needed discussion.
 - e. Full payment of PFD – The governor feels oil is owned by the people of Alaska. The university showed that the crime went down once people got their PFD, but

once the PFD was spent out, the crime went back up (quote taken from memory of a news report).

DISCUSSION: From a geological perspective, we do not know the full potential of the resources of our state. The university can help find ways to diversify the economy. We realize we need to also diversify our resources. Brian – Social sciences and economy has not been a part of a lot of the conversations and is interested in bringing this into consideration. Paul – INBRE's topic is One Health, which includes the people, environment and the animals. This is focused on societal impacts, which blends in with the governor's concerns. Larry – SCoR has always had a big part in economic impacts. ISER is also part of our purview and we can work both ways providing guidance and utilizing the results of their work. Kevin – Will be checking with the governor on his views of our role in the Arctic. Larry – There is so much going on right now. People of Alaska know that we have been resilient and adaptable over the years, but the villages on the coast are being displaced. It is a social science, biological, economic, etc, issue. Mark – The university has a lot of capability in remote sensing. Invites the Lt. Governor to visit each of the campuses to see what the capabilities are at each site. There are many technologies at each of the universities that will draw federal science agencies to them for assistance. Paul – There is an open invitation to the commissioners to visit the university. We would like to be their first stop to solving problems. Amy – USGS is the science agency for the Department of Interior. They have the ability to assist with tackling some of the concerns of the governor. They are working in conjunction with the university on projects statewide to identify minerals across the state. Involved in mapping – working on updating the topography for the state. Also working on volcano and earthquake studies. Even though the federal agencies are under budget pressure, they have enjoyed some significant increases in monitoring volcanoes and mineral studies across the state. Amy invites the Lt. Governor to visit with the USGS.

6. Update Alaska Science & Technology plan – Paul, 10 min – Paul would like everyone to read over the current plan and given what we have learned about this administration identify areas we can highlight. He would like general thoughts of the plan, and whether it should be rewritten or just updated. Larry – This is important because it allows researchers a reference for the state's priorities, and receiving funding. Paul – Funders look at the document to show if the proposals are in line with the state's needs.

ACTION: Committee to review the Science & Technology plan and determine what needs to be updated/changed. What are the themes we should be discussing?

7. Establishment of SCoR Outreach and Communications – Paul, 10 min. – What is the role of SCoR in informing the community? How do we inform the government, other constituents and the public? What activities can we do beyond what we are doing right now. Larry – historically, these communications have not been a priority, beyond Mead Treadwell. Paul – Should this be a focus? Mead was a connection to the feds. Brian – The relevance of the group needs to be maintained. It may be wise to put some energy into communications. Amy – Some level of awareness exists through _____, but as relationships change those fall away. Having a communication strategy may be effective (public and government).
8. JEDC update – Brian Holst, 10 min. – Today, the Hall of Fame is happening today at the Innovation Summit. The press is interested and will run a story on it. Paul – The inductees were unable to attend, but Larry and he will be presenting them. At the last meeting, it was determined that JEDC Summit was the best venue for holding this event.
9. Innovators Hall of Fame overview – John Bitner, 10 min. – Thanks Paul and all of the subcommittee members for all of the hard work in putting on the event. Paul – Innovation happens everywhere and we need to diversify our innovation pool. There are competitions and people come from all over the state. Paul would like to encourage people to start nominating today. Paul thanks the selection committee for vetting the candidates.
10. NSF EPSCoR update – Pips Veazey, 10 min. – Just received a new \$20M award (requires a 20% state match), following on a good 20 years of EPSCoR previous funding that has been obtained from NSF. Boreal fires team is looking at wildfires, modeling fire spread, assessing risk, ties in with the governor's priorities for public safety. One of the Science for Alaska lecture series last night had a speaker who connected a bunch of people in the audience with the emergency manager leads in Fairbanks. While we are a major research program, we are mandated to have outreach with a workforce development component and promoting small business development efforts. Also working to enhance current activities and create new activities across the state, and promoting development of younger scientists. EPSCoR will have an all-hands-on-deck

meeting next week in DC. PI change has been recommended from the Science Foundation. Everything is on track and is fine, but backlogged from the government shutdown.

11. NASA EPSCoR update – Denise Thorsen, 10 min. – Denise was unable to join us today. DISCUSSION: Larry – Has been a very good program for some high technology, which has developed some very highly qualified people, but we don't have anything for them to do in Alaska and they take their training outside. We need to develop this area. Brian – Other universities have incubation labs to develop their people. We have a great environment, but needs to grow these labs.
12. INBRE Update – Brian Barnes, 10 min. – Brian was unable to join us today. Larry – INBRE just received another 5 years of funding.
13. Next meeting – June – Paul, 5 min. – Kelly will find a time in June.
14. Future topics/Roundtable - All, time remaining – Please forward topics/ideas for future items to Paul.
 - a. Science & Technology plan
 - b. Look at the priorities of the governor and how do we engage those topics, how does the committee liaison?
 - c. Larry – UAF and UAS work closely to promote intellectual property licensing.
 - d. Tom – IPAC Intellectual property advisory committee – involves university people, General Council and entrepreneurs for seed funding for proposals, patent opportunities, protection, and industrial activity. There is activity, but there could be more. Faculty in particular get excited about other ideas that other faculty are pursuing. This can be translated over to SCoR as a communication avenue.

Action Items:

ACTION: Committee to review the Science & Technology plan and determine what needs to be updated/changed. What are the themes we should be discussing?