

Minutes of the Space Grant Coordinators' Meeting
Hyatt Hotel, Wichita, Kansas
October 25, 2003

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Clarice Koby, Program Coordinator from Montana. Meeting started with a general introduction of coordinators and attendance roll.

Minutes: Wanda Pierson (GA)
Timekeeper: Diane Jeffers (IL)

Old Business

Review of minutes from Puerto Rico meeting.

April Christenson (ID) motioned for acceptance of minutes. Diane Jeffers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Speaker

Leigh Abts, Associate Director of Education and Outreach Programs for Native Americans and Other Minorities. Mr. Abts spoke on collaborative efforts to bring STEM subjects to underrepresented minorities. This group serves as a facilitator for discussions among the various organizations.

Jay Staker, Associate Director of the Iowa Space Grant and Program Director for the Extension-Science, Engineering and Technology at Iowa State University. Jay reviewed the Space Week Science Challenge operating in Iowa with the Earth and Sky radio program and encouraged other consortia to get involved in the program particularly for National Space Week. Jay also mentioned that there are GIS Kits available through the Extension offices in several states. Jay also mentioned that they contacted the Explorer School in Iowa and offered their support. The Iowa Space Grant has Team Encounter Classroom Space Travel Kits. For every kit purchased the Space Grant Foundation receives royalties.

Peggy Brecheisen, Science teacher, Parsons Middle School, Parsons, KS – “Exploring Space with Parsons Middle School.” Peggy spoke about the impact of the Kansas Space Grant Consortium on her teaching. Peggy took advantage of space grant funding and took inservice classes at the Cosmosphere. She also has taken advantage of NASA’s free materials and additional training programs.

Diane DeTroye

Magui Cardona talked about topics from the Puerto Rico Coordinators' meeting including website 508 compliance. Early next year, the website for the National Space Grant will migrate to the NASA.gov portal which means that all sites need to be 508 compliant before the next funding cycle. After the site moves to the new portal, there will be no links to consortia sites that are not in compliance. Magui will send out the checklist for 508 compliance. Space Grant should let NASA know when their URLs are changed.

Grant Paperwork – do not request a no cost extension at the end of this grant year. NASA is implying that after the 15 year review each consortium will either get a one year or five year extension. A deobligation of the funds for the current grant can be requested and moved to the new grant. This process was used in the past when new grants were issued. Magui emphasized that if a no cost extension is granted, no new funds can be awarded until the expiration of the extension. Warfield Teague explained the new requirements for EPSCoR reporting including the names of individuals.

Susan Stewart gave a brief overview of CMIS and testing of the new data entry screens. Susan is aiming for November 15 for testing of CMIS. Budget data should be entered into CMIS at the same time as the budget and report is sent to Diane Detroye. The affiliate section of CMIS is open all year. Susan emphasized updating affiliate information because in the past quite a bit of the data has been inaccurate. Lorna suggested that the entire CMIS database be open all year so that consortia can enter data as projects are completed. Susan explained that only one dataset (one year at a time) can be open and cannot be closed until every consortium submits their CMIS data. Diane mentioned that some consortia submit data up to six months late. Susan stated that projects that are not continued should be deleted from the database. Another problem has been that the projects sometimes have negative balances. All data and balances should be checked before submission.

Clarice Koby took a poll on how many people wanted a CMIS manual on how to input data. Diane mentioned that at one time CMIS was supposed to become a part of EDCATS. At this point, it is not known what the system will end up being. Susan suggested doing a FAQ page for CMIS like the one done for the PPR. Carmen Fuchs (IA) will take care of the FAQ page for CMIS, to be posted on the PC website. Clarice also suggested that we include a glossary for CMIS. Clarice brought up the idea of having a CMIS training. It would not necessarily require travel, a videoconference would serve the training purpose.

Magui mentioned that one part of her job that CMIS has simplified is downloading information on consortia by accessing the database. Susan Stewart strongly suggested that we all look at project descriptions for typos and inaccuracies because they are the selling point for each consortia. Clara Kustra (NH) made the motion to adjourn and Jackie Reasoner (AL) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attendees – (emails requested only if they changed, others added as known)

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