Notes from the 2018-03-27 meeting of the IM Exec

Zoom channel: https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/8058932071

Attending: Gastil (Chair); Stevan Earl (notetaker); Wade Sheldon; Suzanne Remillard; Jason Downing; Marty Downs

EB report (provided by Wade Sheldon)

EB is planning to consider EDI branding issue but they have not yet discussed it.

Wade informed them that we will elect a new IMC rep, and that they will need to consider our selection at the SC meeting.

There were broad discussions [by the EB] about the ASM, and a 40-year review of the network. It was generally agreed that the 40-year review is an important component of NSF long-term programs, and that it should be addressed - that may be undertaken in the next year or two.

ASM planning discussions are proceeding in earnest. Also, they are considering the logistics of the SC meeting - again, that is in May at NTL with the theme of organic carbon.

EB Representative vote:

Dan B. is willing to be nominated for EB Rep. Mary M. also is willing to be nominated for EB Rep. Mary also is willing to be nominated for IM Exec, which would make her eligible to be EB Rep, but there is also discussion of altering the ToR/By-Laws to allow for non-IMExec members to serve as EB Rep. provided sufficient experience.

IM Exec will solicit a call for nominations within two weeks from this date. This will provide the opportunity to provide some background about the position during the next water cooler.

Action item:
- Stevan will inquire about using Qualtrics for anonymous voting
- Gastil will send a call for nominations

- Wade will provide background about the position at the April water cooler

Update from Stevan: it is likely but not absolutely clear that it is possible to make a completely anonymous survey if respondents are provided with a unique link. Philip Tarrant (former CAP LTER IM) suggests it is likely, and, regardless, is willing to administer a survey such that only the results without any identifying information are provided to IM Exec.

The critical timing is to have the results of the election before the Science Council meeting on May 14th.

Working group updates

ECC

Gastil: The working group is in the mode of receiving data regarding how the new date-related checks are operating. The group has not met since the last IM Exec meeting.

DEIMS

From Ken: this group will meet in the near future to discuss moving DEIMS to Drupal 8.

ToR/By-Laws

From Stevan: this group is planning to meet March 28 to discuss outstanding items, including modifications that would allow IMs who have not served on IMExec to serve as EB rep.

WiRED

Marty: At the last meeting, this group discussed that the current site (im.lternet.edu) has general information that will largely go to EDI, and also items that are more LTER specific that will likely go to the new intranet. Another content type is from working groups, and this also will go to the new intranet. The challenging piece is how to

manage things that are actively on-going. The general consensus is that working groups can decide how they want to operate.

After some further discussion, the group will issue a request for comments regarding proposed changes.

LTER sites website recommendations

There is a current call for comments.

Items for LTER newsletter(s):

Marty is inquiring as to whether the IMC/IMExec has news that would be of interest to the broader LTER community.

DataBits is an obvious item.

Marty: we have a science-focused newsletter every month that goes to a wide audience, and we have also an internal newsletter that is distributed every three months. IMExec should keep the internal newsletter on the radar such that we can advertise IM-related points that may be of interest to the broader LTER community.

Gastil suggested that the new tool currently on portal that allows linking datasets to papers could be of interest. Marty noted that they are including links to data as well as publications in science news stories.

To address news items, simply send an email to Marty.

ClimDB

This topic was raised by Wade who noted that there is little maintenance or development of this platform. We need to consider the fate of this resource. It seems that EDI does not have a concrete plan for the platform - they [EDI] have proposed mining the data, and discussing it at the ASM, but there are not currently any resolutions.

Suzanne suggested that it is an incredible resource if you are looking specifically for daily data, but is of limited use if it is not updated. It is useful!

Wade concurs that it is valuable but that we have not made decisions about what to do about this resource. This came up because Wade and Yang had to address customizations to accommodate a request by Kristin to add new data sources.

A complicating factor is that it is running on software that EDI does not want to maintain or has expertise to deal with. It could be that, if this is going to move forward or, at least, continue, that it will need a new champion. It is basically run with SQL server and Perl. It seems that EDI may be inclined to simply document the existing data.

Suzanne indicated that she has been discussing this with the climate committee, and that they should consider reaching out to EDI.

Wade suggests that IMExec's role in this should be to make sure that the conversation continues, and that we make clear to EDI that there is still interest. If EDI is unwilling to host it in its current form, then possibly the climate committee can aid in finding another host.

Wade and Suzanne will move this conversation forward. Wade will reach out to Corinna, expressing the sentiments above, basically that there is still interest and we need to make a decision about its fate. If EDI is not interested to host, then we can reach out to the climate committee to discuss other options.

Henry Gholz was a champion for ClimDB. It was a quasi-requirement to contribute because of Henry's particular interest in this topic, but it seems less clear that this is or was a requirement as leadership transitioned.

Action item:
- Wade will discuss ClimDB with Corinna
- Suzanne and Wade will reach out to the climate committee if EDI is not interested or available to help with a solution

Annual report

IM Exec needs to provide the EB with a summarized version of our annual meeting (i.e., @ESIP) report. Suzanne has already generated the full report, it merely needs to be summarized for the EB.

An important consideration here is that the EB needs input as they consider models going forward (i.e., regarding the current model of LTER, EDI, and NCO). Wade suggests that we want to point out that EDI is doing an excellent job of developing and maintaining a data repository but there is otherwise little LTER-specific support such as outlined in the NIMO proposal. An expanded role [for EDI] with additional funding to address LTER-specific needs, again, such as those outlined in the NIMO proposal, should be a central message.

Action item:
- Wade and Suzanne will revise the full report

Databits

That Databits was published as a PDF is not particularly well suited to linking to stories or posting in alternative formats.

Eda is concerned about losing Databits identity for these stories if they are pieced out for posting individually. She suggested that IM Exec should consult the IMC regarding this matter.

As is, the only way to cite a Databits article is to cite the entire PDF.

An option is to have a Databits banner with each story if pieced out as well as a link to the entire PDF.

Marty suggests a banner and a link to the Databits archive with reference to the issue of Databits in which the article was featured.

There is general consensus that posting the stories individually (with a banner) and reference to the Databits archive is appropriate.

Action item:
- Marty will draft the above suggestion to Eda and copy IM Exec

EML 2.2 progress

Looking at a likely April (2018) release.

April water cooler topic

EML 2.2. Margaret will lead.

Action item:
- Suzanne will send an announcement for the April 9th Water Cooler
- Margaret to include link to Waffle board in the announcement