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IMExec Winter Meeting 2014/2/26 and 2014/2/27 Notes

Mon, 03/24/2014 - 11:31am — ptarrant [1]

Attendees:
Bahauddin (day 2), Boose, Brunt, Chamblee (VTC), Conners, Downing, Tarrant, Vanderbilt.

Note-taker: Tarrant.

NOTES

EB Report.

- EB met at NSF. Various visits to staffers and politicians. Many of these encouraged making results available to decision makers.
- Annual mini-symposium topic was future scenarios.
- EB members also met with directors of other programs BIO, GEO, SS, Earthcube, Arctic and Coastal.
- Site Visits - happy re guidance provided to review teams. Less happy about possibility of reviews being one day longer and the costs of hosting site reviews.
- Sites are due to submit renewals in March
- LNO will run out of funding before end of agreement (May 2015)
- Discussed the need to brand LTER: what makes LTER unique? Focuses on ecological theory; conducts higher risk experiments; fosters interdisciplinary research

Future IM operations
Discussed the possible future of LTER IM post current LNO. Recognition that we have some standardization with initiatives such as DEIMS and Metabase, which encourage common processes. However, it is difficult to imagine standard centralized services partly due to NSF processes for distributing funding, e.g. DEIMS.
EML, NIS, and PASTA are all examples of standard processes and systems that need to be continued. There is the possibility of IMs performing micro services for the larger group based on specific expertise.
Any significant change to the way in which LNO operates today would lead to transitional costs, and we would need to understand what they are likely to be.
Other issues that will need to be resolved/progressed are: switching off Metacat and the fact that today PASTA is a data repository not a data portal.

Annual IMC Meeting
Current plan is to co-locate annual meeting with ESIP summer meeting in Colorado, July 8-11.

Proposed that Tuesday should be the business meeting. This will then allow IM members to either depart or to stay on and take part in the ESIP meeting.
Discussed possible LTER session proposals for ESIP meeting:

- Mini-symposium session - who is/are LTER?
- LTER IM in post ARRA world
- Now that we have PASTA, what next?
- data package standardization
- How to do more IM with less resources
- Limited support for synthetic data

Draft Agenda

- Monday - travel
- Tuesday - Floor nominations; Post ARRA strategy discussion; PASTA update; Saran discuss; Elections; workshop preparation; WG reports
- Tuesday evening - IM social
- Wednesday - ESIP meeting
- Thursday - ESIP meeting, late PM IM report back, survey, etc.
- Friday - AM ESIP, PM travel

NSF Update
The team had a VTC session with Saran Twombly. Saran provided an update on current LNO funding.

LNO Update
The team had a VTC session with Bob Waide. Bob discussed current funding challenges plus the current status of funding for remaining PASTA development.

IM input for future LNO
Remainder of meeting was set aside to prepare the IM input for the McKight committee.

Action Items.
Submit IM input for McKnight committee to IMC for comment (Philip)
Submit IM input for McKnight committee to Ellison and McKnight (Philip)
Schedule VTCs for IMC meeting planning (Kristin)

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