

Notes from the 2018-05-22 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 (Wade Sheldon)

Excellent discussion at the Science Council meeting. John Schade was able to attend. Collette St. Mary was in attendance. Dan Thornhill, who will be replacing Dave Garrison, also was in attendance.

Much discussion about the 40-year review, which will ramp up in 2020. A committee of polar, bio, and geo groups are involved. Will be a very formal process. There will be an important self census as part of this effort, with likely an IM component. Will be sent to the NCO for collation into a network-wide report. The onus is on LTER as a program to justify its existence. They will ask for vignettes of examples. These panels have a lot of independence so they may do things like tour sites. Will be a very elaborate process. Double-checking to be sure that all of the materials from the 30-year review are available; fortunately, Don was able to locate the IM-related materials from the 30-year review, which were previously lost.

Sevilleta is on the verge of finally becoming an official site, though there are a few last details to address before making a formal announcement.

There are no other site competitions on the horizon. However, anticipated budget cuts did not occur, and, in fact, they received a slight bump in their budget.

There are some personnel changes at NSF, notably Dan Thornhill and Collette St. Mary

Dan's nomination to EB Rep. was approved. Gastil noting that Dan will be the rep. at the time of the 40-year review. Wade will be e-introducing Dan to the relevant contacts in the coming week(s).

John Schade feels NSF representation at the ASM IMC meeting is important, and will advertise the opportunity.

The Texas group that was interested to join the LTER network is generally invited to interact with the LTER but there will not be a formal association.

The group discussed website guidelines. Peter felt this is an important topic, and he felt the guidelines were well crafted.

The group discussed sexual harassment guidelines. Guidance will be forthcoming on that issue, and may center on actions such as making relevant materials available on site websites.

They discussed 'what is an LTER publication'? No conclusions were reached, but they recognized that there are different perspectives on the point. This issue may be touched on in the 40-year review, with one possibility being a tagging approach to publications (e.g., funded by, associated with, etc.). Effort associated with any requirements on this point are likely to be non-trivial.

Marty weighing in that it was suggested that publication categories could be overlapping and not necessarily exclusive.

Generally, there may be requests for many metrics in light of the 40-year review.

They did discuss the NCO and EDI surveys to the community. Most folks were happy with the current arrangement. They felt that EDI was going smoothly, though there was concern about support for IM at sites, and credit for IM contributions. Discussed how IMC should continue to advance given the existence of EDI. Recognized the importance of continued funding for these entities.

Marty adding that there was some discussion about whether the PIs have enough information about EDI. This is an area where IMs could help by keeping site PIs more up-to-date. Generally, the feedback was positive.

Marty adding that there will be more details about the 40-year review by the ASM, and sites will be given ~ 6 months to collect requested information with the review occurring in 2020.

The panel for site reviews has been held but details may not be available until the fall.

Peter Groffman is stepping down from EB. Diane McKnight will join EB as chair elect.

Working group updates

ECC

New date-oriented checks have been implemented. New requests will be coming from ECC: can we add checks outside the stated release periods if they are only informational?

DEIMS:

This group did not provide a report but noted that they are planning a session at the ASM.

ToR/By-laws:

Complete

WiRED

This group has suggested using git as a centralized resource for project documentation. Margaret may be open to taking on a leadership role with WiRED, but Marty adding that they are very close to being done.

Suzanne has suggested a WiRED meeting be held at the ASM where they could advance their efforts.

LTER sites website recommendations

Complete, the recommendations were approved.

Kristin's request to invite European specialists to the IMC meeting as the ASM

Generally decided that they are very welcome, and we will share the schedule as soon as it is available. However, generally leaning toward hosting a session about vocabulary as a workshop during the main ASM, and not as a separate discussion during the IMC-only meeting, which may raise doubt about whether the IMC meeting would in fact be of interest to the visitors.

Action item: Gastil will respond to Kristin

Invitation to site scientists to participate in the IMC meeting?

Gastil has inquired as to whether we should invite site scientists to the IMC meeting. Suzanne responded that interest would likely be low, and Marty added that the PIs in attendance on the day before the ASM will be in other meetings.

Marty adding that it may be helpful to have a workshop just on this issue, particularly focused toward new sites. Wade added that an overview of the training document could be helpful. Answer basic questions such as how to interact with the network.

The conversation is leaning toward proposing a session during the ASM toward new-site integration. Per Marty, this should be a session co-led by an LTER IM and EDI.

John Porter or Kristin V. would be excellent leaders for such a session.

Action item: Gastil will contact John Porter and Kristin about taking on this opportunity

EB Representative

This is Wade's last IMExec meeting. Dan is not elected to IMExec, and he may choose to remain as an ex-officio member or he may opt to stand for IMExec. To be determined.

Water cooler

The June water cooler will focus on planning for the IMC meeting at the ASM.

Action item: Jason will send a preliminary schedule.

ESIP summer meeting

IMExec approves the new member application.