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Wed, 09/26/2012 - 8:36am — [mobrien](#) ^[1]

Attendees:

IMC Co-Chairs: John Chamblee (CWT, 2015), Margaret O'Brien (SBC, 2013)

IM Exec Members: Dan Bahauddin (CDR, 2013), Jason Downing (BNZ, 2014), Adam Skibbe (KNZ, 2015), Philip Tarrant (CAP, 2014), and Kristen Vanderbilt (SEV, 2015).

Ex officio members: James Brunt (LNO), Emery Boose (HFR, EB Representative, 2014).

Notes

IM Exec met somewhat informally in a breakfast session at the ASM. The main topic of discussion was the need to respond to IMC member feedback regarding greater transparency with regard to IM Exec activities and more clear lines of communication between IM Exec and the IMC. After several minutes of open discussion, IM Exec reached consensus on the following suggestions, which, assuming no major objections from the IMC membership, will be implemented this fall:

- 1) IM Exec would re-organize its meeting schedule and its internal organization to substitute IM Exec liaisons to IMC working groups with regular meetings with working group representatives. This will give working group representatives direct access to the full committee, rather than having communications be "bottle-necked" through a single IM Exec member.
- 2) IM Exec will work to increasingly focus IMC VTCs on working group reports, so that the entire IMC is aware of working group activities.
- 3) IM Exec meetings with working group representatives will be scheduled one month ahead IMC VTCs, so that IM Exec members and IMC Working Group Representatives can discuss issues of broad interest to the full IMC and possible linkages to other activities ahead of the full IMC meeting.
- 4) IM Exec will schedule both the IM Exec and IMC VTC working group meetings on a volunteer basis and plan the schedule well in advance throughout the year.
- 5) IM Exec members will continue to initiate one-on-one phone calls with the IMC membership. These calls will take place on at least a bi-annual basis and IM Exec members will rotate the calling lists to ensure that members who do not regularly communicate have more opportunities to talk.

In addition to communication, we also discussed ways to increase IMC input regarding NIS Production Workshop Proposals and to avoid potential conflicts of interest associated with having some subset of IMC members comment on the proposals. After some discussion, we returned to the idea laid out in the LNO Operational Plan, which is that LNO determines which proposals are most suitable toward advancing NIS objectives and that the IMC should be given the opportunity to provide feedback.

We understand this arrangement to mean that no one in the IMC, neither IM Exec, nor another subset group, is empowered to “review” the proposals in the sense of providing feedback towards funding decisions. That decision resides with LNO. Instead, IM Exec reached the conclusion that the best way to ensure that LNO will select from quality proposals that have the best chance of forwarding NIS objectives would be to provide a mechanism by which any IMC member has the opportunity to provide constructive feedback on NIS Workshop Production Proposals.

Therefore IM Exec plans to work with James Brunt and LNO to have working group proposals posted in an area of the LTER Intranet site that is viewable to IMC members, but not to the general public or the network at large. All IMC members will then have the opportunity to provide constructive feedback on ways the proposals might be improved. The final decision-making review would then reside with LNO, as the Operational Plan stipulates. In order for this “crowd-sourcing” editorial system to work, draft proposals will have to be submitted by October 15. Final proposals will then be due on November 1. As a reminder, please note that all Production Workshop Proposals must be schedule to have all work completed and paid out by August 1, 2013.

Finally, on the subject of note taking, IM Exec will rotate note-taking and publication responsibilities in order to “share the pain” equally. Other IM Exec responsibilities will be divided at the next IM Exec meeting, on Monday, October 1, at 10 am MST.

Meeting Notes ^[2]

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