

Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Education and Human Resources

National Science Foundation

Friday, September 29th, 2017

Teleconference, 1:00PM Eastern Time

Meeting Goal: To receive, deliberate upon, and vote to accept the report from the *Building Capacity at Hispanic-Serving Institutions* Subcommittee.

Advisory Committee (AC) members on the line: Bruce Alberts, Hyman Bass, Elizabeth Boylan, John T. Bruer, Cathy Casserly, Carlos Castillo-Chavez, Rory A. Cooper, Okhee Lee, David H. Monk, Roy Pea, Debra Joy Pérez, Francisco C. Rodriguez (chair), Marilyn Strutchens, Candace Thille, Laurel Vermillion, Lilian Wu

NSF staff on the line: Jim Lewis (EHR Acting Assistant Director), Sylvia James (EHR Acting Deputy Assistant Director), Susan Brennan (Program Director, EHR AC Executive Secretary), Joan Walker (Program Director, Subcommittee Executive Secretary), Carol Van Hartesveldt (Staff Associate, Office of the Assistant Director)

Opening Remarks

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, *Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District; Chair, EHR AC; Chair, Building Capacity at HSIs Subcommittee*

Dr. Jim Lewis, *Acting Assistant Director, EHR*

Dr. Susan Brennan, *Program Director, EHR Division of Graduate Education*

Dr. Rodriguez welcomed AC members and the public to the teleconference and called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote to accept the report from the Building Capacity at Hispanic-Serving Institutions Subcommittee so that the document becomes public and NSF may act upon the advice it contains. Dr. Brennan conducted roll call, and confirmed a quorum. Dr. Lewis thanked the Subcommittee for its work and expressed his appreciation to AC members for their time this afternoon, and to the public for the broad interest in this important topic.

Dr. Rodriguez read the charge to the subcommittee: “to provide NSF with advice that will inform the design of a new undergraduate program for HSIs in order to build capacity at institutions of higher education that typically do not receive high levels of NSF grant funding.” He explained that the following text, added to the report, describes the relationship between the Subcommittee and the AC: “The Subcommittee undertook this effort to generate the report independently. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this report are those of the Subcommittee and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Advisory Committee to the Education and Human Resource Directorate of the National Science Foundation.”

Deliberation

Dr. Rodriguez opened the floor for comments, questions, and discussion. AC members praised the Subcommittee for its thoughtful work and for the clear and concise report. In particular, AC members called attention to the following topics:

- Building capacity at HSIs is an important initiative. There are many institutions that could benefit from targeted support.
- Current graduation rate metrics do not fully describe student or institutional success. Developing additional metrics will be valuable, and requires serious thought.
- Establishing genuine partnerships and leveraging existing funding will be critical to the success of this program. EHR should ensure that partnering institutions demonstrate commitment of both administrators and faculty.
- The new program should encourage strengthening and incentivizing cross-sector collaboration between academic institutions and industry to foster partnerships with HSIs.

AC members suggested that EHR explore the following additional topics as the program is developed:

- EHR should examine underlying assumptions behind “building capacity.” What does it mean to have “low capacity”? What are appropriate measures for “capacity”?
- In developing and working within this new program, EHR and the PI community would benefit from exploring the work of Hispanic-studies scholars and practitioners.
- Strong evaluation and monitoring plans should be required, and should include shared measures as well as institution-specific and project-specific measures.
- Projects supported by this program should include baseline inventories and longitudinal studies of outcomes. Such information will facilitate assessment of change over time, as well as allow for replication, adaptation, and scaling of model practices by other institutions.

Vote

Dr. Brennan asked for a roll call vote to accept the Subcommittee Report. The report was accepted by all 16 AC members participating in the meeting.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Jim Lewis, *Acting Assistant Director, EHR*

Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, *Chancellor, Los Angeles Community College District; Chair, EHR AC; Chair, Building Capacity at HSIs Subcommittee*

Dr. Lewis thanked AC members for their time and for the rich discussion. He assured the AC that EHR will take Congress’s direction to build capacity very seriously and that an important goal of the program will be that more HSIs are able to apply and successfully receive grants from all of NSF’s programs. Dr. Rodriguez added his thanks, particularly to the Building Capacity at Hispanic-Serving Institutions Subcommittee, and reminded the AC that there will be time at the November 30th - December 1st meeting to continue the conversation about the development of a new HSI program in EHR.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:50PM.