

Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (AC ERE)

August 31, 2017

Teleconference

Summary Minutes

Committee Members in attendance: Dr. David Blockstein, Dr. Ann Bostrom, Dr. Andres Clarens, Dr. Roger-Mark De Souza, Dr. Charles Isbell, Jr., Dr. Anthony Janetos (Chair), Dr. Maria Carmen Lemos, Dr. Rich Loft, Dr. W. Berry Lyons, Dr. Paty Matrai, Dr. David McGinnis, and Dr. Anu Ramaswami.

Sustainable Urban Systems Subcommittee members in attendance: Dr. Sajal Das and Dr. Luis Bettencourt.

NSF Staff: Dr. Leah Nichols (OIA, Executive Secretary for AC ERE), Dr. Charles Estabrook (OISE), Dr. Bruce Hamilton (ENG), Dr. Steve Meacham (OIA), and Ms. Katherine Otts (DAS).

Noon – 1:00p Sustainable Urban Systems White Paper

Dr. Ramaswami introduced the Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS) subcommittee members and outlined the SUS white paper for the committee. The committee then discussed the content of the white paper and agreed that the white paper should better identify opportunities for convergent science. Additional suggestions included:

- Strengthen references within the SUS white paper to the committee's America's Future Report ("Gold Report");
- Clarify the scales at which SUS science is needed;
- Encourage a more multi-directional approach to interaction between scientists and stakeholders; and
- Identify the data needs (e.g. systems, tools, infrastructure) for SUS science.

The committee also discussed how the white paper framed the recommendations for 'smaller projects,' noting that the paper should better explain how the 'smaller project' examples fit within the broader context of the paper. Ultimately, the committee voted to approve the white paper pending minor edits to incorporate the committee's suggestions.

1:00 – 1:30p National Security, Economic Competitiveness, and ERE – Planning Discussion

The committee discussed ideas for how to develop ERE research agendas around national security and economic competitiveness. They agreed that the committee should explore science needs with members of the national security and economic development communities. Some suggestions of potential partners were made, but the committee decided to develop an action plan during their October meeting.

1:30 – 2:00p AC ERE Business

Dr. Nichols summarized the status of NSF's Work at the Human Technology Frontier Big Idea. The committee accepted the minutes from their March 2017 meeting.