

## **Advisory Committee for Environmental Research and Education (AC ERE)**

November 16, 2016

Teleconference

### **Summary Minutes**

**Committee Members in attendance:** Dr. David Blockstein, Dr. Michelle Buchanan, Dr. Andres Clarens, Dr. Scott Doney, Dr. Margaret Honey, Dr. Anthony Janetos (Chair), Dr. Maria Carmen Lemos, Dr. Paty Matrai, Dr. David McGinnis, Dr. Julia Parrish, Dr. David Schimel, Dr. Dave Skole,

**NSF Staff:** Dr. Steve Meacham (OIA, Executive Secretary for AC ERE), Dr. Leah Nichols (OIA, Executive Secretary for AC ERE), Mr. Patrick Southern (OIA), Dr. Wenda Bauchspies (SBE), Dr. Sarah Ruth (GEO), Dr. Alan Tessier (BIO)

The committee accepted the minutes from their September 2016 meeting.

#### **10:00 – 11:00a Gold Report Supplemental White Paper**

Dr. Skole walked the committee through the draft white paper. The committee's subsequent discussion focused predominantly on clarifying the research questions throughout the text. Suggestions were made to make a clearer distinction between needed research questions and recommendations regarding research support, workforce development, and infrastructure. Committee members also suggested adding language about the need for research into the processes of creating actionable or useable science and into advancing understanding of how actions alter trajectories of socio-environmental systems. Ultimately, the committee concluded that substantial revision was necessary and decided to postpone approval of the white paper.

#### **11:00 – 11:55a Big Ideas Subcommittee: Convergence Topics**

Dr. Janetos discussed the Big Ideas subcommittee charge and outlined its draft white paper on convergence. The committee's discussion predominantly focused on the definition of convergence and how it differs from other kinds of interdisciplinary research. Committee members noted that the paper was appropriately brief by offering ideas rather than in depth analyses and that the selected examples demonstrated both a range of problem size and community readiness for convergence. The committee decided to approve the white paper with the minor edits discussed. They also agreed to continue their discussion of convergence at future meetings.

#### **11:55 – Noon Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS) Subcommittee Update**

Dr. Nichols noted that Dr. Ramaswami had accepted the invitation to Chair the SUS Subcommittee; that Dr. Ramaswami, Dr. Janetos were working with the NSF to identify and contact members of this subcommittee; and that the NSF was preparing appointment letters accordingly.