

## NOAA Education Council Meeting

Date/Time: October 17, 2012 (1:00–4:00 pm)  
 Location: SSMC3, Room 14836  
 Dial-in: 866.901.0711  
 Passcode: 8134683  
 Contact: Lisa Iwahara (202) 482-3139, Erin Sams (202) 482-9183

Adobe Connects Link to Meeting: <http://connectpro46305642.adobeconnect.com/edcouncil/>

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## AGENDA

- 1:00 Welcome/Opening Remarks – Louisa Koch (5 min)
- 1:05 Overview and process agenda - Christos Michalopoulos/Lisa Iwahara (20 min)
- 1:25 Transition - Break-out into small groups (5 min)
- 1:30 Break-out discussion by work groups (WGs) (45 min)
- 2:15 Transition - Return to large group, submit filled out template slides to Lisa and Erin (15 min)
- 2:30 Report out by break-out groups (25 min total)
- 2:55 Whole council discussion and decision - (55 min)
- 3:50 Updates and announcements
- 4:00 Adjourn

## Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:

November 14, 2012  
 December 19, 2012  
 January 16, 2012

## Attendance

**In person:** Louisa Koch (LK), Steve Storck (SSt), Christos Michalopoulos (CM), Erin Sams (ES), Lisa Iwahara (LI), John Baek (JB), Marlene Kaplan (MK), John McLaughlin (JMc), Jennifer Hammond (JH), Maria Murray (MMu), Bronwen Rice (BR), Dan Pisut (DP), Sarah Yue (SY), Paulo Maurin (PM), Atziri Ibanez (AI), Molly Harrison (MH), Kate Thompson (KT), Peg Steffen (PS), Bruce Moravchik (BM), Rochelle Plotchak (RP), Stacey Rudolph (SR)

**On the phone/chat:** Seaberry Nachbar (SN), Frank Niepold (FN), Shannon Sprague (SSp), Leon Geschwind (LG), Sarah Schoedinger (SSc), Osaretin Obaseki (OO), Carrie McDougall (CMc)

## Presenters/guests:

## Welcome/Opening Remarks (LK)

- The strategic plan and the implementation plan afterward were big steps forward; it's time to take a fresh look at these plans
  - Today is a time to sync up on an interim basis as we head toward the next Strategic Plan; it's going to take us a while because we're going to do it in a very vigorous way
  - This is a tough fiscal time and it's important that the Education Council plays an important role in what you do.
  - I want to feel better connected to each of you individually and what the Council does, including the challenges you face so that I can help and reflect those [challenges] in other places.
  - Education is under a lot of scrutiny as well; concerns at higher levels regarding the quality of STEM education programs

- Programs should be able to meet central criteria established for ensuring educational quality; clearly articulate goals and outcomes, be able to describe how programs align with effective practices, to have logic models that align to specific outcomes, to understand the need of the target population, to have an evaluation strategy and have that strategy reflected in the program design, to understand what other programs are being run with similar goals and to communicate with them, have strategic partners
  - Grateful to the monitoring & evaluation framework that was developed & the Academy review of that put us in a strong position to move forward
    - John Baek's arrival has really helped us move forward with this effort
  - The expectation is that *it is done*, without regard to whether there is enough funding, time and other resources to accomplish the task at hand. Pressure is on us to achieve these tasks.
- The NAS highlighted that programs have to be able to see themselves in the strategic plan and that they need to be able to connect their activities to the goals & outcomes to the plan NOAA-wide, and this is the angle we are going to follow
  - That's a huge agenda; We're expected to do this, we're underway, and we're getting stronger as a result. Everything else we discuss today comes on top of that.
- Keep this in mind, because what we do today will be built upon our current and past efforts. I want to be very careful given the economic restraints that we're under, given that the sequester is hanging over our heads.
- We have a lot to accomplish, and if at any point you're confused or lost in the process or you feel uncomfortable, speak up.

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### Overview and process agenda - Christos Michalopoulos/Lisa Iwahara (20 min)

See PowerPoint.

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### Report out by break-out groups (25 min total)

See PowerPoint.

- LK: Was there enough time to think through the topics?
  - CM: Our group had time (BEC), but other groups were much more complex than ours.
- KT: Are we going to vote on the new ideas that we come up with for working groups and disband the old ones?
  - PS: these are more like ad hoc groups, where the working group disbands after the task is completed.
- KT: It seems that coming up with all of these topics is helpful, and we can work in a vacuum all we want, but if NOAA doesn't buy into what we want, then that work was not useful. We need NOAA leadership buy-in if we're going to get anywhere.
- LK: Well, I think it varies. I saw whole programs, etc. being cut and tossed around at the NEC meeting. I was asked to speak on the issue and mentioned that OSTP made STEM Education a priority; that this would be a bad time to make cuts in STEM Education. It was close to going in the bucket, but that doesn't mean that leadership doesn't care about education. Lubchenco said that the hardest cuts for her were in STEM, but I don't know if that understanding helps you feel any better. Christos and I met with Kathy Sullivan and she said that putting major efforts toward evaluation are simply the price of doing business so that your program earns it money.
- KT: I need to be able to go back to our (regions) and say "that's the price of doing business". It's hard to explain that their work is going toward surviving cuts, while cuts are still happening anyway. What do we have to prove to leadership in order to not get axed?
  - LK: I requested that we get more money to do this evaluation that is now necessary for all of our programs to do, but was told that we aren't going to get it. That it's simply the price of doing business. We are expected to be able to talk about the effectiveness of a program if we are going to expect to be trusted with running a program. That's just the bottom line.
- DP: How do we move to the next phase where we do get that buy-in?
  - LK: The interagency leadership priority that's being set is performance monitoring and evaluation. NOAA is trying to keep pace and help lead the process by leading the efforts in performance monitoring and evaluation.
- LI: Can we segue into the topics for each group?
- LK on Engaging Leadership:
  - All tasks listed need to continue, but there is no value in maintain the working group.
  - We need to assemble as ad hoc groups as needed, nothing more; separate data calls take care of the other tasks.
- JH on BEC:
  - Completed two tasks, have not yet completed an internal training system and plan to continue work with the M&E working group through 2013.
  - A lot of people on the Council are involved in training, so we can work through other capacities to reach this item
  - BEC will dissolve, but has taken on different form through M&E; a training group may be developed for 2013
- SSt on Connects:
  - Total of 8 tasks/objectives...many more separate items than other groups
  - Partnerships should be addressed as a Council-wide activity, Connects working group should disband
  - Many people working in the distance learning field, an area that is more Council-wide
  - NODE is also a Council priority
- PS on PK-20:

- Partnerships is the only task that the group decided to work on through 2013
- Too large of a mandate to keep this working group intact, decision to disband
- KT: the one that came to the surface was underrepresented groups
  - MK: that falls under scholarships & internships
- LI: Climate tasks/activities that anyone in the room can talk to (due to Frank Niepold currently attending another conference)?
  - PS: concern that 6 tasks are too many
  - CM: The second item is already happening outside of the purview of the Council
  - PS: #5 goes with distance learning and other integrative efforts, so there are definitely ways to combine some of these items with other topics/focus areas
  - KT: partnerships are present here too
  - PS: several of these could be integrated into other broader groups that are not topic specific (Climate)

### Whole council discussion and decision - (55 min)

See PowerPoint.

- KT: Important consideration for **partnership strategies** is focusing on how to best develop partnerships
  - Develop best practices for defining partnerships, coordinate with M & E, strategize priority partners
- CM: The Council is already adding levels of complexity to what we do from day to day, and each of our individual contributions to the Council are so important. We all recognize that partnerships are essential, but when I look at “develop best practices” ... You all develop partnerships as you see fit for your own programs
  - KT: that’s the problem; we don’t have an established method for how to create or define partnerships;
  - CM: My fear is figuring how we are going to implement or enforce these best practices without adding another level of complexity.
  - KT: PK-20 and Climate saw this as an important strategy as well. Our issues were that partnerships are being thrown around and developed in an inconsistent way.
  - CM: Maybe we need to refine what we’re after.
  - JB: another strategy would be to prioritize different types of partnerships, and this is a different objective
  - KT: Dan (DP) brought up the idea that without the definition for a partnership, we might look at the topic in very different ways
  - MH: Do you think this could be accomplished through information sharing in a community of practice?
  - KT: Yeah, and John (JB) needs to be at the table when we talk about it. We need to better define it.
  - JB: We should get on a core definition and try to be more strategic.
    - KT: Yeah, and the Academies said that this was a major issue within NOAA – that we don’t have an established partnership strategy
  - RP: Once you get a handle on how you define partnerships, can we look at what the partnerships do? Can we do something that allows a partnership to exist after a grant is expired, etc.?
  - JMc: Along the same lines, the creation of and reason for creating MOUs is not clear or regulated
  - LI: Given what we’re trying to address with this, what type of people should be working on this?
    - LK: let’s look at the other groups’ takes on partnerships to talk about that
  - RP: Climate strikes me as focusing on a different aspect of partnerships
  - SSt: What are the tasks here? What can we accomplish in 2013?
    - PS: surveys, MOUs, agreements...
    - CM: who’s going to do the analysis?
      - JH: that’s another task!
  - SSt: There were a lot of discussions on the best practices of these. Maybe a retreat for looking at how to approach these tasks would be helpful.
  - JH: Does anyone disagree that partnerships is not worthy of a focus?
    - LK: I think it’s more important to determine who will analyze the information
    - JH: What I’m saying is that if we all agree today that a working group on partnerships is needed, and we don’t decide today who will lead the group, is someone going to be willing to come forward...?
    - CM: We don’t have to decide this today, we can pick this back up in November
  - LI: It sounds like the partnership strategy doesn’t rise to the top, but it seems like a necessity
  - LK: when I did a site visit to Hawai’i, this was what they had done the best. They presented themselves as NOAA rather than individual program components and this was very effective.
- KT: **Distance learning** was the other recommendation for us (Connects)
  - KT: **Stacey (SR) and Bruce (BM) already interested in leading this group**
- KT: There’s all kinds of technology grants available and partners that would be willing to work with us
- SSp: Our office is very interested in distance learning as well (Chesapeake Bay Office)
- KT: There are lots of scientists and meteorologists (RG) that would be interested in this, including the WCMs
  - CM: Also intersects with the question mark on internal training that was brought up
- KT: **NODE** is another activity we chose; **Dan (DP) and Atziri (AI) would be interested in leading it**
  - KT: It would include evaluation, teacher and PD workshops, content, marketing & branding strategies

- LI: Who else would have cross-Council interest in joining this? (several hands raised)
- PS: This strategy directly speaks to the infusion of science and engineering into the classroom. This is probably one of the best things we have going in terms of implementing the NGSS
- CM: This excites me and worries me because this activity clearly requires real money to make it happen. That to me is the only obstacle.
  - KT: We all have connections, partners, etc. to make this happen.
  - LK: So, if you take this to NOAA leadership for more resources, they would say that if this is a top priority for your program, you need to reallocate your programs and fund your top priorities.
  - CM: Let's be honest with ourselves; Each program in the Council clearly has its own budgetary priorities
  - LK: I don't control the budget of any office outside of OEd, but I've also led efforts where we've passed the hat and collected support from around the community
  - CM: The M&E program has been the single effort that programs other than OEd have contributed money. We may not always be able to support it.
- SSp: There are opportunities to infuse NODE into the existing grant programs.
  - AI: What do you mean?
  - SSp: We have priorities that allow us to support programs like C-BIBS through B-WET funding. It works very, very well.
- JH: I think that Shannon's point on finding other ways to fund it is important, but we're not to the point of discussing resource availability right now.
- LK: I'm hearing a lot of support for NODE. I want to throw out the idea that we're giving \$1M to NatGeo, we have aquarium money, so we have money and we can do some brainstorming.
- LK: We should come back to NODE, but let's move on to hear from Frank now.
- FN: Just a word about NODE: it came through as a high quality program when the Climate program was looking at it.
- SSp: Chesapeake buoy programs follow the NODE structure; I'd say us (Chesapeake Bay Office) and Bart Merrick would be interested in being involved.
- JH (BEC): Contact John Baek if you're interested in joining the M&E working group
- JH: training for education programs has been put on hold; could be put into the distance learning grouping
- SSp (**regional collaboration in NOAA**):
  - We're looking to clarify a list of topics for regional collaborations, such as Environmental Literacy. Would probably look like a series of webinar calls, etc. The work would be in setting up the communication framework.
  - FN: Can we expand this some; there are areas where there are hot spots, such as in climate education. We need to go beyond lessons learned to better coordinate program activities.
  - SSp: We had a conversation about advocating on behalf of the NGSS. It would be good to have this conversation with the Council.
  - FN: **I would like to be added as a leader for this group**
- MK: Student scholarships, etc. ...We need to do analysis on where our participating students go after graduation and completion of internships.
  - MK: I have an ongoing activity with Sea Grant and cooperative institutes and I'd like to recruit them...
  - AI: Paulo and I currently can't speak to this because our programs are being ended. We have historical data, but may not be able to use resources to do this analysis.
  - LK: Would either of you be able to get money to evaluate your programs although they are ending?
    - AI & PM: No.
    - PM: I am looking to fund this on my own. It would be very hard for me to justify doing this for a program that is dead.
    - JB: We could structure it so that there's a protocol that you can follow so that your data can be comparable.
  - LK: That's a really good idea.
  - MK: I'm planning to pay for the bulk of it out of Hollings to minimize the contributions necessary from other programs.
  - LK: Is C-Bay still running scholarships out of your office?
    - SSp: Yes, I can talk to Kevin about that.
  - FN: We are still not including post-docs in this discussion, right?
    - MK: Yes
  - LK: But the Climate SOAR students could participate.
- PS: Another activity is **the review and integration of NGSS** and the conceptual framework. **I'm happy to help with this (Peg Steffen)**.
  - CM: **Sarah Schoedinger**, would you be interested in taking the leadership of this on, at least representing the ocean community?
    - SSc: Yes, I will happily take that on.
    - FN (**Frank Niepold**): We're already doing some of that, so I'd be interested in this as well.
    - PS: We can tag team it. (FN: Yes, we already are.)
- FN on Climate:

- FN: This is part of the climate goal already. And all line offices are doing climate education already; how we connect those when it comes to Education, OSTP, etc. comes through the Council, not through the goal.
- LK: I'm not clear what the role of the Ed Council is on any of these 6 tasks.
  - FN: These have education related to them in the Implementation Plan
- LK: I'm grateful for the climate goal, and the significance of NOAA's investment in education, but these tasks are not relevant to the greater Ed Council.
- FN: not activities that are part of the Ed Council
- LK: Is an Ed Council working group needed for any of these?
  - FN: No
  - LK: This should be taken offline and talk about the other proposed working groups to catch you up to speed.
  - FN: Okay.
  - PS: There are several activities here that fit in other buckets that we've created today. Most of what your activities encompass can be redistributed to other groups.
  - FN: need for a topical working group or not is the question.
- LI: We have 8 different proposed categories to discuss further in November. Let's plan to have a Co-Comm "Plus" meeting to discuss these items before the next Ed Council meeting.
- CM: We may want to reshape and rethink the Co-Comm group because it was started initially as a meeting for the working group leads and is now having a more significant role. We should reshape it as the community sees fit.
- CM: Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 for the next Ed Council Support Group meeting
- LI: I will confirm who is helping to flesh each of these out so that we have more structured conversation in November.
  - LK: We haven't decided who is going to be involved, what topics will be included (approve of specific tasks), so we should all be looking at who's actually going to be involved in the decided working groups
- AI: Maybe we can have a way to rank different topics before the meeting so that people can anonymously voice their opinions
  - CM: We could set up a doodle poll for people to vote on different ideas.
  - LK: That's a good idea...pre-work with the Council
- LK: We need to decide what we should set up and what we should look into and accomplish in the next 10 months.
  - AI: In order for me to get approval from my leadership, I need to be able to explain my involvement in what I do.
  - FN: If we go away from topical groups, reason for Climate as a separate working group, we need to coordinate so that those people interested can be involved without being overly busy.
    - LK: We will be sure to ask at the next meeting how many people are interested and want to be abreast, but cannot commit the time to any?
    - JMc: Thinking about these as little communities of practice may help us move forward.

#### Summary of recommendations and actions

##### Recommendation regarding the WGs:

Sunset the following working groups: Engage Leadership, BEC, Connects, PK-20. Climate will exist minimally for the Goal, but discussion on the relation to the Ed Council will be conducted further off-line.

##### Next Steps:

- 1) Use the November meeting to make a decision on the priority Council business raised at the October meeting
- 2) Convene a Co-Comm "plus" prior to the Council meeting to confirm the process agenda for November
- 3) Clean up the detailed slides (Title, Significance, etc.) and poll the council to assess priority level for each activity

##### ACTIONS:

- 1) Calendar the Co-Comm "plus" meeting on the Co-Comm and that potential work group leads' calendars
- 2) Schedule time with the potential work group leads to clean up the detailed slides. In the case that there was no lead identified for the activity, it will default to the discussion lead for the purposes of cleaning up the slides.

#### Updates and Announcements

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- None submitted