

Supercomputing Challenge Board Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2022, via Zoom.

Attendees:

- Celia Einhorn
- Patty Meyer
- David Kratzer
- Tim Thomas
- Nels Hoenig
- Amy Knowles
- Darko Stefanovic
- Matthew Curry
- Ron Davis
- Thomas Bowles
- Kaley Goatcher

5:36 – quorum, start of meeting

5:37 – discussion of emails/meeting minutes

David: we're limited to 36GB of website space and we're currently at 30GB, so we'll need to clean up some things

5:42 – Financials (Nels)

\$190k – in our various accounts

Allocation based on budget is \$189k

\$160k – NMC

Needed funds is \$176k

We're \$16k over budget

Budgeted salaries are \$61k

Consultants cost us \$11k a month (\$4k executive director, \$7k staff)

Executive director cost us \$4k a month

\$100k allotted for other things (Nels to send out financial breakdown of budget)

We need LANL or Triad permission to move money allocation around

Data Casting (Celia)

Data Casting is an attempt to solve a court case where Native American students are not served as they should

28% of our kids had no education during the pandemic

Uses PBS stations all over the country to download information to rural homes

1-way communication
Research is in progress
20-30 miles travel required to get a wifi connection

What is the value flow into and out of the Challenge?
Money was allocated to help districts and families affected by this.
So far, one location is utilizing these services

Not Challenge money... it's money to support Challenge people.
We're helping another group to facilitate an initiative.

Board did not specifically approve these efforts.
A memorandum was issued.

We're currently unsure if we need to return any unused money from this effort or if we could allocate it for other resources.

Next Steps?
Celia is unsure
Plan was to have 25 kids and 5 teachers, but that's not happening (currently have 6 kids)
Raspberry Pis are not available

Action: Nels will send out the MOU for details for the project budget.

Tim: motions that any future MOU/transfer of value in/out of the challenge be approved by the board

Nels: seconded with amendment – only need approval of 2 people and not wait for a board meeting (Executive Director and President)

David: nothing needed for a donation, but when there's strings attached

Nels: further clarify that it's any inbound funding of \$50k or less, needs to be approved by the Executive Director and President, and anything above \$50k be approved by the entire board

Matthew: dollar value isn't the concern here, it's the impact to the Challenge and its goals
Suggested amendment: The President and Executive Director can approve certain MOUs BUT the President or Executive Director can reserve the right to bring in the board to advise

When an MOU or other inbound funding is being considered, the President shall send the MOU out to the board and any board member has the right to call a meeting about the topic. If the board lets it float by without comment, then the President and Executive Director can move forward with the execution of said MOU

Motion from Tim: The President and Executive Director can approve certain MOUs BUT the President or Executive Director can reserve the right to bring in the board to advise

Second from Nels

Unanimously in favor. Motion approved.

Grants:

Letter of support issued for a grant

Stephen Guerin – water theme –

Stephen runs Sim Table; does beautiful work with fire predictions

He's been a mentor and judge for the Challenge for many years

Wrote a letter of support and asked if we liked it, we said yes, and he submitted it.

David shared: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NEcK1sc7om57tD-4tHe3wYrDzWzDnp6-ySCMLcRcoFo/edit>

This is an alignment with our goals, and the lead principle is a Challenge alumnus: Kas

If the total amount of the grant were to come in, \$150k slated for the Challenge and probably won't be available till late 2022 or maybe even 2023

Challenge participation includes Stephen doing a keynote and we recommend that students work with that particular theme, and Stephen would mentor up to 4 SCC teams. Mentors come from Sim Table. Subject is watersheds.

In-kind grant:

Steve Buelow – consulting with an old colleague of Tim's to put together a small cluster in the NMC's data center. Cluster contains various types of GPUs and CPU architecture (excluding ARM). Less than 10 research groups have connected to this as coinvestigators. Purpose is for co-design optimization. Students from various research groups across the state can have access to this cluster. They've set aside time for grad students and for us should our students want to make use of this system. No direct money, but access to an advanced system should we have any students that can make use of it.

Celia: would we need MOUs from both these organizations? Only once the grant is awarded.

Tim needs to get into Nusenda to formally add him to our accounts, and remove Paige from our access.

NMC already has Tim's information

Nels suggests having all board officers added to the financials so any 2 members can sign in place of the Executive Director.

Talking about having David act as a non-paid temporary Executive Director

Tim: propose we take a breath and thoroughly think about this

If we don't have a sustainment plan that is easily digestible, then we won't sustain.

Tom: We never really finalized our business plan.
Having a business plan is critical to our long-term success.

Action: David will decide if he's interested in this option, and if so, write up a plan for what is in-scope and what is not in-scope.

Back to grants –

Digital Badge Grant
Money has come in
Creighton has been researching it and nothing has been purchased
He's recommended we work through Canvas
We have \$1000 from LANL in our accounts allocated for the digital badging system

MaFS – marketing and fundraising support
Try to do something for expo?
Bumper stickers?
Sponsors for membership fees?
Action: Kaley will schedule a follow-up committee meeting

Tim: Motion the highest priority business committee be revived
Motion to the committee that is appropriate for creating a business plan needs to produce a business plan that can bring us to sustainability
Timeline: Finalized by the end of our fiscal year

Seconded by Tom

Unanimously passed.

Action: Tim will research to try to identify who was in that committee and reconstitute it

Activities (David):
47 teams have put in proposals
43 teams have put in interims
23 of the 43 teams are signed up for time slots for interim presentations

Awesome turnout for volunteers for review of interim reports
Feedback: students said they'd like the dates adjusted for when certain milestones are made

We have scholarship money – almost as much as we want. Applications for those scholarships are due end of Feb. We're going to push our 26 seniors to all apply for that

\$2k scholarship from Descartes

\$2k scholarship from Intel

Leaning towards a virtual Expo again this year

If we do, may need to consider different approach for caucus

Zoom meetings seemed to work well for the judging

Zoom webinar seemed to work well for the awards ceremony

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 4th, 2022 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Tim: We may need to look into executive board meetings should they become necessary

Fiscal year ends the same as the state

Postal funds have been covered

Grant money from PNM is not out of the realm of possibility, thought probably not big bucks this year.

Tim:

Who are those companies who would promote/donate to us and what are they looking for?

Do we have our fingers in the right pies for what we want funding for/from?

We need to be careful not to fragment our efforts

Nels: I would love for us to go after the FBI cyber academy or any number of the IT organizations that moved into town – Lavu?

Tom: works with another non-profit on business in NM, including metrics, workforce, education, etc.

Willing to share the roadmap from that group with SCC. Going out to working groups in two weeks. Released to the public in 2 weeks or so.

Tom: motions we adjourn the meeting

Tim: I second

Meeting adjourned: 7:34 pm