

Utah Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Bylaws and Program Responsibilities November 28, 2012

Definitions

EPSCoR. The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program of the National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Integrative Activities (OIA), is designed to assist the National Science Foundation in its statutory function “to strengthen research and education in science and engineering throughout the United States and to avoid undue concentration of such research and education.”

Utah EPSCoR. A state-based capacity-building program focused on increasing statewide collaboration in research and education to increase NSF funding to Utah

Utah EPSCoR Committee: An advisory body to the State EPSCoR Director and to the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education

Oversight

The Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education provides general oversight for the State EPSCoR Program, including the following:

- Oversees the activities of the State of Utah EPSCoR Office and State EPSCoR Committee by:
 - Promoting EPSCoR activities within the state when drafts of potential news releases are provided to the Communications Director in the Office of the Commissioner by the Statewide EPSCoR Director
 - Providing for EPSCoR matching funding requests to be considered through the Regents’ budget-building and request process
 - Approving any substantive changes in bylaws
 - Approving the selection of the Statewide EPSCoR Director, who is directly responsible to the Executive Committee
 - Concurrence with appointments to the Executive Committee
 - Concurrence with appointments of members of the General Committee
 - Reviewing revisions to the state’s Science and Technology (S&T) plan as proposed by the EPSCoR Committee for consistency with the strategic plan of the Utah System of Higher Education

Utah EPSCoR Committee

Definition and Purpose. The Utah EPSCoR Committee is an advisory body to the State EPSCoR Director and to the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education on EPSCoR matters. The purposes of the Utah EPSCoR Committee are to:

1. Assist Utah in focusing and enhancing its capacity for research and development through a partnership of Utah academic institutions, national labs, industry, and state government; and
2. Promote research in the universities, increase opportunities for training the workforce of scientists and engineers, and promote economic development of the state of Utah.

Objectives. The EPSCoR Committee will achieve the purposes stated above by:

1. Developing and updating the State S&T plan for advancing scientific and engineering research and training at the colleges and universities, selecting research priorities for EPSCoR emphasis, and developing strategies for investment of resources to enhance research capacity,
2. Cooperating with various state agencies and national laboratories in promoting research and development,
3. Choosing applications for EPSCoR program funding from federal agencies as appropriate, and
4. Promoting private sector involvement in university research and expediting technology transfer.

Committee Structure and Functions.

Executive Committee

Membership and Appointment.

1. The Executive Committee will be composed of a representative from the Vice President for Research's office from each of the following institutions: University of Utah, Utah State University, Brigham Young University.
2. The president of each institution named in #1 above will forward the name of the institutional representative for the Executive Committee to the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education for confirmation. The executive committee will establish an agreed upon rotation of the committee Chair.

Duties. The Executive Committee is responsible to:

1. Members of the Executive Committee will serve as the Past Chair, Chair and Chair-Elect of the General Committee.
2. Appoint the State EPSCoR Director with confirmation by the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education.

3. Define the membership of the General Committee and set the appointment term of the General Committee members such that a rotation of representatives is created through three-year appointments initially set with a staggered set of 1, 2 and 3 years. All appointments of less than three years will automatically be eligible for a follow-on full 3-year appointment if in good standing.
4. Search and fill vacancies in the General Committee with the confirmation of the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education.
5. Represent the Utah EPSCoR General Committee at functions and activities.
6. Appoint Subcommittees of the Utah EPSCoR Committee that may be designated to serve as necessary to carry out the purposes of the EPSCoR Committee
7. Set the agenda and rules for the Utah EPSCoR Committee and operate the committee according to Robert's Rules of Order for decision-making.
8. Report to the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education on a regular basis.

General Committee

Membership. Members of the General Committee are representatives identified by institutional/organizational Chief Executive Officers and confirmed by the Commissioner. Members include the following and any additional, as designated by the Executive Committee:

1. Members of the Executive Committee (3)
2. Two research representatives from Utah's Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs)
3. Utah Science Technology and Research Initiative (USTAR)
4. A representative of the Utah Governor's Office
5. A representative of the Utah State Office of Education
6. A representative of the Utah System of Higher Education
7. Three (3) members of Utah Industry
8. A member of the Utah State House of Representatives
9. A member of the Utah State Senate

The State of Utah EPSCoR Project Directors will be non-voting ex-officio members, including:

- The Utah NSF EPSCoR Project Director (Ex-officio),
- The Utah NASA EPSCoR Project Director (Ex-officio),
- The Utah Department of Energy (DOE) EPSCoR Project Director (Ex-officio)
- A non-Utah NSF EPSCoR Project Director (Ex-officio)

Compensation.

Members of the Utah EPSCoR Committee receive no compensation for their

services.

Meetings.

The Utah EPSCoR Committee will hold its meetings at such times and places as determined by the Chairperson, or whenever any five members so request. At a minimum, the committee shall meet semiannually. A reasonable effort will be made to hold meetings at various Utah locations.

By-Laws Revisions.

Bylaws can be revised by a majority vote of the Utah EPSCoR General Committee and must be confirmed by the Office of the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education.

Duties. The Utah EPSCoR General Committee:

1. Performs the search for the State EPSCoR Director and recommends candidates to the Executive Committee.
2. Provides guidance to the State Director with respect to selection of EPSCoR proposal foci submissions.
3. Generally facilitates the EPSCoR efforts in the state for increasing capacity for research and development.