

LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting

November 10, 2020

10:00 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, by Virtual Zoom.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Mahyar Amouzegar (Proxy – Ryan Bell)
Representative Polly Thomas
Calvin Mackie (Proxy-Lawrence Jackson)
Kenya Messer
Frank Neubrandner
Kellie Taylor-White
Meridith Trahant
Ken Tucker
William Wainwright
Nathan Corley
Jaimee Williams (Proxy-Erin Babin)
Clint Coleman
Crystal Gordon
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Scott Stevens
Senator Sharon Hewitt
Trisha Fos (Proxy – Jean May Brett)

Staff Members Present

David Lafargue
Susannah Craig

Committee Members Not Present

Larry Carter, Jr
Patty Glaser
Kristen Reeves
Tom Yura
Bianca Deliberto
Janet Pope
Jim Henderson
Commissioner Kim Hunter Reed
Melissa Mann
Michael Gaudet
Ronnie Morris
Susana Schowen

Welcome, Roll Call, and Updates

Dr. David Lafargue, LaSTEM Program Administrator, called the meeting to order at 10am, did roll call, and determined that we had a quorum. Dr. Lafargue then introduced Senator Hewitt.

Senator Hewitt welcomed the Advisory Council members and proxies. She noted that the Advisory council was moving from statewide efforts to more regional efforts and starting to vertically align with federal goals relating to STEM and technology. She showed excitement as all of this starts to come together. She thanked all for their commitment, and she looked forward to continue supporting by providing resources to the program.

Dr. Lafargue moved along to the approval of meeting minutes from the October 6, 2020, which was originally scheduled for August 24, 2020. In addition, meeting minutes were sent out the previous week for review.

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There was a motion from Clint Coleman to approve the amended minutes and a second from Nathan Corley. With there being no opposition, the amended minutes were approved.

Council Discussions

Dr. Lafargue provided a recap of the 2020 LaSTEM Annual Summit. Highlights included 346 total registered attendees and survey results showing high quality of content. Challenges were a few technical issues and the hurricane that hit in the middle of the event causing attendance to decline. Data will be further analyzed and provided to the council in the future. Recordings/presentations of the Summit can be viewed at <https://lastem.regents.la.gov/?p=1828> and RSNC additional information is available at <https://lastem.regents.la.gov/?p=2030>.

Dr. Lafargue provided an update on the Regional STEM Network Centers. Region 1 and 4 will begin application re-opening. GNO Inc. began collaborating with Region 1 and stakeholders to bring together a collaborative effort. Region 4 will be re-opening the application process as well as no applications were received earlier in the year. Dr. Lafargue planned to have another informative webinar for the re-opening of applications.

Mr. Lawrence Jackson asked for clarification of Region 1 re-opening. Intent was to bring the original 4 applicants together, however if there are others interested in being involved, then they are welcome to apply through the application process. GNO Inc. will serve as point of contact. Dr. Lafargue will connect Mr. Jackson, Dr. Mackie, and GNO Inc. via email.

Ms. Jean May Brett asked about scoring of the applications in Region 1 and why no entity was awarded. Dr. Lafargue stated that each entity has separate strengths, and the idea was to bring all the strengths together in a collaborative effort. Scores would be given after next steps were identified and plans made to move forward. Additionally, Dr. Reed stepped in and provided additional comments to help clarify, stating that GNO Inc. was speaking with each entity individually and then pulling everyone together for a consensus to develop one application for the Region.

Dr. Lafargue introduced Irena Trifunovic with AI4All Artificial Intelligence, who presented on the Open Learning Initiative, which is a way for educators to bring free and approachable AI education to their communities at the high school level. Irena Trifunovic can be contacted at irena@ai-4-all.org. Website: <https://ai-4-all.org/>

Dr. Lafargue then introduced Nathan Lippe with Coursera, which was a continuation of Louisiana Tech's co-presentation with Coursera at the LaSTEM Summit. This presentation detailed the partnerships between Coursera and campuses. Nathan Lippe can be contacted at NLippe@Coursera.org. Link to sign up for Coursera For Campus Basic: <https://www.coursera.org/campus/basic/>

Other Business

Ms. Jean May Brett noted that the QSM program is accepting quality math, science, and STEM grant applications (\$1,000 for non-consumable equipment and materials for science-based standards instruction) from K-12 public school teachers, closing on November 30 at midnight. To apply, please go to https://my.reviewr.com/s1/site/QSMGrantProgram_2020. For more information about the program and to apply, teachers should visit lsu.edu/qsm or email qsminfo@lsu.edu.

Dr. Lafargue noted the Quarterly meetings for 2021 have been scheduled and he is in the process of confirming physical locations for all. Tentative dates are as follows:

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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

With there being no other comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kellie Taylor White and a second by Ms. Jean May Brett. With all in agreement, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29.