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Mtg

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Subject: Draft Director's Council Minutes
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Date: Fri, 21 Jun 1996 16:09:50 -0400

>To: shoran@nmsu.edu, msandy@pen.k12.va.us
>From: dbartlet@bigred.sr.unh.edu (David S. Bartlett)
>Subject: Draft Director's Council Minutes
>Cc:
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>X-Attachments:

>Steve and Mary-

>Here are the draft minutes from our last Director's Council meeting. Send me any comments/corrections you would like incorporated before they are distributed to the attendees.

>Regards,
>David

> Minutes
> National Council of Space Grant Directors
> May 19, 1996
> Williamsburg, Virginia

>(Several standing committees of the Council, including the Executive Committee, met earlier in the morning to discuss issues related to their particular charges.)

>The Council meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Steve Horan, Council Chair. On behalf of the Council, he presented a plaque to Elaine Schwartz in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated efforts in the creation and formative development of the National Space Grant Program. Elaine is taking a new position with the NASA Office of Inspector General.

>Julius Dasch, Space Grant Program Manager summarized recent Washington events and the status of the Program as follows:

>- The NASA budget continues to be a major concern. Overall, the agency is in a downsizing mode, particularly at Headquarters. Cuts have been severe, but no Centers or large programs have been eliminated. Recently, a new target for budget and personnel cuts has been identified, with impacts which are uncertain.

>- Space Grant has experienced level funding which, in this environment, is viewed as a positive indication for the Program's success and continued health. Despite this success, there are programmatic issues which Julius described. The 5-year program evaluation identified a few consortia which were not performing adequately, and emphasis has been placed on improving these programs, with significant success. In addition, the evaluation identified a number of "middle tier" consortia which were generally performing well but had selected areas where improvements could be made. Julius would like to focus on these consortia, to raise the overall level to that of the "top-tier" consortia which the evaluation identified as excellent in all areas. Julius observed that performance seemed to be determined largely by consortium Directors. He encouraged Directors to strive for greater visibility for their programs.

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>Julius also expressed concern regarding responsiveness to reporting requirements. A number of consortia were late with their annual reports, resulting in the Program Office being unable to compile its comprehensive program overview in a timely fashion.

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>Julius identified diversity as a strength of the program, but was dissatisfied that the percentage of Fellowships awarded to underrepresented minorities fell from 23% to 21% during the last year. He challenged the Directors to increase the percentage of fellowships awarded to women from 39% to 41%, and to minorities from 21% to 25%. A concern from the floor was that while women and minority candidates should be and are encouraged to apply for fellowships, setting specific targets raises the issue of imposed quotas. Julius responded that he did not intend to specify quotas, but wanted to encourage renewed efforts in recruiting underrepresented groups to enhance this particular strength of the Program. An additional concern, expressed by several Directors, was that recruitment of minorities is intensely competitive, with other NASA and NSF programs often able to offer larger inducements than Space Grant consortia.

JD has asked for help in office recruitment area - strategies that work panel for sharing not good existing prog. neg.

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>Julius stated that he planned to form a committee, consisting of a number of consortia Directors, to advise him on processes to improve overall Program quality.

Why not let his choices

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>- Frank Owens, Director of the Education Division, reiterated that the Space Grant Program was doing well but should strive for improvement in the areas outlined by Julius.

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>Reports were given from the Committees and Working Groups which had met prior to the general session:

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>- Steve Horan said the Executive Committee was concerned that some individuals, and perhaps some NASA offices, had a negative perception of Space Grant, and that this may affect the program's ability to expand its role in NASA's outreach initiatives.

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>- Brent Bowen, Nebraska Space Grant Director, reported that the Aviation Working Group had about 15 people in attendance. They identified a number of goals related to aviation which included: alerting Space Grant Directors to the existence of this interest group, including creation of an electronic mailing list of interested individuals; creating an aviation World Wide Web site (in progress); considering a full-day meeting related to aviation and its role in Space Grant; developing an on-line scholarly journal related to aviation (completed); and developing a white paper to inform Consortia regarding on-going issues and plans related to aviation (a draft will be distributed soon). Frank Owens suggested that contact be made with the NASA Centers having aviation/aeronautics charters.

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>- Al Strauss, Tennessee Space Grant Director, reported for the Committee on industrial relations. He noted that private sector involvement in State Consortia was unevenly distributed, with greater participation in those States with resident NASA Centers. The Committee discussed the idea of facilitating affiliations with large companies that would be nationwide in scope, thereby involving State Consortia which currently have limited corporate involvement. Frank Owens noted that several major NASA contractors were collaborating on "Mission Home" - a \$1.5 million project to enhance aerospace's position in the national agenda.

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>- Mike Wiskerchen, California Space Grant Director, reported for the CMIS

