

NASA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes and Actions

VITAL MEETING DATA

Date: August 24, 2018, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: NASA Headquarters 8Q40

Agenda: See attached

Required Attendance: Core EC; CAM OICs and RMO representative for each; OLIA

MEETING ACTIVITIES

- The Executive Council (EC) was extended to include budget Control Account Managers (CAMs) and the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA). OCIO was approved to attend the budget topic, and the Chief Human Capital Officer and Director/NASA Management Office were invited to attend the FFRDC study topic as members of the study team supporting the presenter.
- Actions from the June 26-27 and July 30 SMC and EC, which were required for closure to support the decisional budget topic, were reviewed and closed by the Chair; none required extended discussion. Two action deadlines were extended based on sufficient progress being made to support budget submission.
- The EC refined and approved final messaging associated with the PPBE20 budget build, and directed specific changes to be worked by OCFO prior to submission, without additional concurrence by the EC or Administrator. A special meeting was directed for the following week to reach agreement on final content for one budget element.
- The EC reviewed the findings and recommendations of the NASA FFRDC study, finding them consistent with Administration direction and the study's Terms of Reference. The EC approved the findings and directed that at this time, the recommendations continue to be characterized as options rather than requests.

Ed note: Budget activities prior to the President's Budget Request in February are embargoed. Minutes for this meeting are limited to a high level overview.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: ***PPBE20 Messaging and Approval to Submit (Decisional)***

Andrew Hunter, Deputy CFO, led the EC through a review of the proposed PPBE20 budget submission overview to OMB, requesting EC to provide feedback on and approve the overall messaging approach, and subsequent submission. The PPBE20 budget will be the first NASA budget to clearly signal and communicate the Administrator's priorities.

The EC provided feedback to help clarify and strengthen communication of how the proposed budget implements the Administration's objectives, including Space Policy Directive 1. In discussion of NASA's inflation-adjusted historical, current and requested budgets, the EC highlighted the differences, in adjusted dollars, between past major development initiatives such as Apollo, Shuttle and the ISS, and the current approach, and how the maturation of both NASA and partner capabilities will enable exploration

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without significant investment in new infrastructure or historical budget levels. To help communicate NASA's current budget level and the contrast with past investments to both the public and other external stakeholders, OCFO was actioned to develop inflation-adjusted historical budget data and a summary of the differences in today's approach.

The EC continued the discussion from previous leadership team meetings and Councils on the importance of continuing to advance towards a workforce model where the Agency is externally controlled by dollars, rather than by controls on FTE headcount.

The EC approved the messaging approach presented, contingent on incorporation of feedback shared during the meeting. A breakout meeting was directed for early the following week to finalize content of one budget element.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: NASA FFRDC Study Submission (Decisional)

Doug Comstock, OCFO, as lead of the NASA FFRDC Study Team presented near-final findings and recommendations for the NASA FFRDC Study, assigned by the White House to NASA as part of the Government Reform Plan. NASA's response is due before August 31, 2018 and per the study's Terms of Reference (ToR), the Executive Council was required to approve submission. Criteria for submission included whether the study evaluated the options assigned in the ToR, and assessed their impacts on Administration policy objectives.

The Study was not limited to evaluation of FFRDC options, and evaluated both organizational and authorities options for making NASA more agile and flexible to meet the space exploration objectives established by the Administration. In reviewing the findings, EC participants discussed the relative likelihood that various options would yield cost savings, versus other benefits such as increased flexibility and acquisition options, healthy competition across the supplier base, diversity of supplier cultures, and increased brand equity across the country. They discussed the challenges and lack of precedent for complete conversion of a Center to an FFRDC.

During discussion, an issue was identified with potential challenges impeding NASA university partners from actively co-branding NASA-funded or NASA-partnership activities. The Acting Deputy Associate Administrator accepted an informal action to research obstacles and report back to the Administrator.

The EC determined that NASA has completed the study as directed, evaluated a robust range of options, and determined that NASA needs increased flexibility to fully implement Space Policy Directive 1 and other external policy direction. At this time the Agency is not yet ready to request specific authorities, but will continue to actively mature options identified in the study while awaiting Administration feedback.

The Study will be submitted on August 31st, and the full SMC will be briefed on findings on September 6th.

The Council ended its meeting at 4:20 PM.

Minutes prepared by:

(b) (6)

Dennis Boccippio
Executive Secretary, Executive Council

Minutes approved by:

(b) (6)

Tom Cremins, Acting Chief of Staff

Minutes approved by:

(b) (6)

Jim Bridenstine, Administrator

NASA Executive Council Agenda

August 24 2018

1:00-4:00 PM, Room 8Q40


Required Attendance: Core EC; OLIA; CAM AAs; one RMO representative per CAM

Attendance Policy: Member or Approved Delegate; Invited participants

1:00	Introductory Comments (5 min, <i>informational</i>)	Administrator, Jim Bridenstine
1:05	<p>PPBE20 Submit: Messaging and Final Approval (1 hr 55 min, <i>decisional</i>)</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine messaging of PPBE budget submission to OMB, and provide approval to submit in September. <p>Decision Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear and effective messaging to OMB of NASA's priorities, opportunities and risks. Consistency of messaging between submit and CAM briefs. Messaging integrated across Mission Directorates where appropriate (e.g., with respect to the Exploration Campaign) and in alignment with the NASA Communications Strategy and NASA Strategic Plan messaging. All budget actions issued at June 26 SMC and July 30 EC completed, and ER&T structural changes agreed to with CAMs. Decisions provided with sufficient time to allow for final refinement and packaging of submit to OMB. 	OCFO, Andrew Hunter
3:00	<p>Submission of FFRDC Study (55 min, <i>decisional</i>)</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the completed NASA FFRDC study consistent with its Terms of Reference, and ready to submit externally? <p>Decision Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study includes a cost/benefit assessment of whole or partial conversion of a NASA Center [Centers] to FFRDC, evaluates the use of FFRDCs for new programs and projects, and includes other options to achieve agility and flexibility. The study evaluates options' impacts on Administration policy objectives. 	OCFO, Doug Comstock, Study Lead
3:55	Closing Comments (5 min, <i>informational</i>)	Administrator, Jim Bridenstine

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
NASA HQ - ACR-2
24-Aug-2018**

MEMBERS and Invitees

Position	Name	Signature
Administrator	Jim Bridenstine	 (b) (6)
Deputy Administrator	VACANT	
Associate Administrator	Steve Jurczyk	
Chief of Staff	Tom Cremins, Acting	
Deputy Associate Administrator	Melanie Saunders, Acting	
Chief Financial Officer	Jeff DeWit	
Director, OCFO/SID	Craig McArthur	
Chief Scientist	Jim Green	
Chief Technologist	Douglas Terrier	
Associate Administrator, ARMD	Jaiwon Shin	
Associate Administrator, HEOMD	Toni Mumford (for) <i>W. Gersten</i>	
Associate Administrator, SMD	Thomas Zurbuchen	
Associate Administrator, STMD	Jim Reuter, Acting	
Associate Administrator, Mission Support	Dan Tenney	
Associate Administrator for Education	Mike Kincaid	
Associate Administrator, OLIA	Rebecca Lee	
Chief Information Officer	Renee Wynn	
EC Executive	Dennis Boccippio	
Office of the Administrator, Senior Advisor, Technical	Lisa Guerra	
OACS Senior Analyst	Jeff Beyer	
<i>OCFO</i>	<i>Jenny Russell</i>	
RMO MSD	Lisa Ziehmman	
RMO ARMD	Bill Harrison	
RMO SMD	Craig Tupper	
RMO STMD	Voleak Roem	
RMO Education	Tanye Coleman	
OCFO, Presenter	Andrew Hunter	
OCFO	Alesyn Lowry	
OCFO	Sean McCarville	
OCFO	Mary D. Kerwin	
OCFO Study Team, Presenter	Doug Comstock	
FFRDC Study Team	Marcus Watkins	
FFRDC Study Team	Bob Gibbs	
<i>RMC, HEOMD</i>	<i>ELAINE SAUGH</i>	