

ERE Advisory Committee Meeting
8-9 September 2010
Notes by Murday

The ERE Advisory Committee, created in 2000, is somewhat unique at NSF in that it is multi-directorate in character. About ½ its members are also members of a directorate advisory committee. The ERE Ad Com is to:

- Provide advice recommendations and oversight concerning support for the NSF's environmental research and education portfolio.
- Be a base of contact with the scientific community to inform NSF of the impact of its research support and NSF-wide policies on the scientific community.
- Serve as a forum for consideration of interdisciplinary environmental topics as well as environmental activities in a wide range of disciplines.
- Provide broad input into long-range plans and partnership opportunities.
- Perform oversight of program management, overall program balance, and other aspects of program performance for environmental research and education activities.

It has generated three key reports that have been instrumental in shaping NSF programs:

- ["Transitions and Tipping Points in Complex Environmental Systems"](#) (2009)
- ["Complex Environmental Systems: Pathways to the Future"](#) (2005)
- ["Complex Environmental Systems: Synthesis for Earth, Life, and Society in the 21st Century"](#) (2003)

The NSF **SEES (Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability) program** spawned from ERE efforts. The initial SEES programs in FY10 were:

Topic	Funds (\$M)	LOI	Awards
Water Sustainability and Climate	16	311	
Ocean Acidification	15	130	
Climate Change Education	10	174	
Biodiversity	20	288	
Earth Systems Models	<u>50</u>	215	14 (out of 29 discerned as worthy)
	\$110		

The FY11 effort is projected as \$750M – substantial growth. There will be increased emphasis on integration of energy research, the science workforce, collaboratory interdisciplinary networks, interdisciplinary postdocs, and enhanced public literacy on sustainability. The FY12-15 efforts are being formulated and will likely address such items as complex systems, alternative energy and the vulnerabilities, vulnerable geographical regions (to climate change), international networks and collaborations, and partnerships with other agencies (DOE, NOAA, USDA,...). There will be another “Dear Colleague” letter issued soon.

October 2011 is projected as the roll-out date for the new US Global Change Research Program. The website www.globalchange.gov is available to see the various reports associated with this program.

There was considerable discussion of the best methods to engage the social science communities in the SEES efforts – no resolution, but clear intent.

Alan Kay, Viewpoints Research Inc., one of the ERE Adv Com members, presented his work on Squeak Etoys – a computer approach to K-12 education. Two of his research notes are attached. He is working with LA schools, and claims to know USC Cinema. Possible collaborator?

The NSF site Green Revolution was cited as a good example for reaching out to the public:

http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/greenrevolution/

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