

CE-PAG Notes - Public
Wednesday - 7/28/2021

Agenda

- **Brief Updates**
 - Internet2 BOT meeting on Thursday, July 29th 2021
 - Primary agenda item is the NOC contract
 - Have changed the timeline for approval of the budget - will be approved in Nov meeting. We are decoupling approval of fees from the approval of the budget, so we can provide an update to the community after the board meeting on Thursday regarding fees for 2022, as well as some idea of fees for subsequent years
 - Ana has been working with the Nominations Committee on the three board seats coming open that need to be filled
 - Have openings for CIO, Pres/Chancellor, Industry
 - Election will be after labor day and new members will be on-boarded by the November board meeting
 - For CIO and President category, the Nominations Committee did a thorough job in canvassing the community for minority nominees
 - Each category has a nominee from an HBCU
 - Have a good pipeline for future board candidates. Welcome input from this group on continuing that pipeline
 - We would welcome updates on how the recruitment process is going and how the PAG can help in facilitating that process, particularly around inclusion
 - Thank you for the work that Internet2 and Ana have been doing to ensure recruitment across diverse populations
 - We have learned a lot from going through the process, particularly with CIOs, and we'd be interested to share that at some point. We have the opportunity and desire to continue to make progress in this process.
 - Reminder that the MS-CC have submitted a proposal for a pilot Center of Excellence that, if funded, would be a 2-year set of activities. Success would see the emergence of a strong MS-CC. NSF has asked for clarification on a number of questions and those responses have been sent. Hope to hear soon - will let the PAG know when we do. Include updates on this over the next few months.
 - Will this be shared with the Board tomorrow? No, the Board has already been updated previously
- **Draft Proposal re: Convening Strategy for 2021-2022 (Glenn L)**

- Every few months we continue to survey the community to gather info on interest in meeting in-person
- The February survey was geared around virtual convening
- June survey was around gathering in-person in 2022
 - 70% of respondents indicated that they'd likely attend in-person event in 2022
- Spring 2022 options
 - Smaller, regional focus events that are campus-hosted, and separate leadership type event
 - Singular focused event, less people at a hotel possibly. Hybrid component to make it both live and virtual
 - End of 2022 could move closer to the type of in-person TechEx events like we've had in the past
- Feedback
 - Good that you're keeping it dynamic and making changes as you go, this is an ever-changing situation
 - Incremental approach brings flexibility. How far ahead will you be making commitments so that I2 doesn't find itself in a financial bind?
 - Right now there seems to be a lot of flexibility with commitments, but that could change in the coming months. Planning for the next couple of months feels comfortable at this point
 - Be mindful of the geographic locations throughout the country. There are some spots that have higher infection rates
 - Agreed, unfortunately we can't predict any of this, but hopefully by the end of 2022 we'll be in better shape in terms of managing these risks
 - The early trend of vaccine passports could really take off and be common throughout the country. That could play a larger role in planning future events (like hotel venues requiring that for attendees)
 - For an upcoming event I'm registered for, they're requiring you to be fully vaccinated and you must provide proof of negative COVID test 72 hours before arrival
 - As long as hotels and flights have flexible cancellations, folks will be more likely to book without the threat of being penalized
 - Regarding the regional event - are there other events within our community that could be seen as competing, or seen as redundant?

- There's potential for that, that's why we're tracking and being mindful what other organizations and groups are planning
- On registration forms, if there's an option to forgo the refund should something happen and the event gets cancelled, I opt for that. There could be a surprising number of organizations that are also ok with foregoing their refund of a couple hundred dollars. But it might not be the same viewpoint from public higher education institutions
- There needs to be a clear and compelling reason on WHY you're getting the community together. What are those topics and why should we feel that it's compelling?
 - There are likely topics, but Internet2 should take the lead in convening those conversations
 - I don't think there has been a new strategic plan for some time. If you wanted to get people together to think about a strategic plan, that's important enough for me to be there
 - Absolutely agree. We're taking a good look at WHY we meet too, there's a social component, but is there a need for a meeting when everyone has such a different mindset nationally?
- Would it make sense for Internet2 to treat these recommendations as a pilot to tease out some of the insights/trends we have identified before these recommendations become something permanent that we adopt? Maybe what we're all saying is "not so fast", maybe use this time to test things out and make proper adjustments
 - +1 Don't make long term decisions during transition periods. "Moving forward, the success of an organization is going to be determined by one criteria: how flexible will the org be and how rigid will they choose to remain?"
- Snowmass conference in Colorado was in summer, had a lot of outdoor components, ~250-300 people. Thinking about an event like that (outdoor) - those kinds of events where you're thinking differently about packaging it / how to bring people together... Have to rethink entire meeting experience (locale, how you want people to interact). How you design something that's an experience that we couldn't do through video that amplifies the importance of meeting in person
 - A large percentage of the value in attending I2 events (40%) has been the professional networking. That aspect in particular, requires a national level scope for me to be really advantageous

- We want to reassure the PAG that Internet2 has made no decisions on convening so far. This exercise was meant to be a temperature check. We'll continue to assess, evaluate and consult with the community. We've been getting questions around major events (e.g. SuperComputing, EDUCAUSE). The reasons to convene need to drive what we do. We will relay this wonderful feedback to the Internet2 ELT and staff
 - It is refreshing to know that I2 is trying to transition us out of pandemic mode (aka a light at the end of the tunnel). Hope that you can utilize all of this feedback
- **Potential revised timeline for notification of Sustaining Contributions (Mike E)**
 - Many of you could see the financial impact of the pandemic for many years to come. In the spring, we signalled that the fees in 2022 were likely not to exceed a 1.5% increase. Hoping to get Board's formal approval of that on Thursday.
 - We do need to be back on track for the 3% increase potentially for 2023, we would like to signal to the community that the fees would not exceed 3%. Hoping to also get Board's approval to signal this intent at the meeting on Thursday, with affirmation at the November 2021 meeting. Previous timing would have put such communication well into 2022.
 - The goal and hope is that if we can communicate the potential increase to the community sooner it will be beneficial in the budget planning for members
 - Feedback
 - Question about model - it caps the max contribution. That ends up meaning the high dollar research schools pay a disproportionately low percentage towards their membership fees. Should there be discussion around raising where those caps are, building new things on the high end side of this? That would have some impact that you'd need to think about. The schools that are the greatest impact are lower & mid-tier research that, as they have grown their research, they are moving up in terms of the scale data. Will you re-run the model?
 - There are a number of things related to the model that we'd like to look at. The current model looks at a historical 3-year window of institutional scale data. This would have been the year that we looked at recalculating, but we were concerned that some institutions would realize an increase in sustaining contributions during a year that we decided to keep sustaining contributions flat. We made the decision to defer recalculations on new scale data to fiscal year 2024 in order to take into account the impacts of pandemic

- That's probably the right thing to do
 - That might be a compelling reason to convene
- Additionally, we are exploring whether we may potentially be negatively impacting a school's ability to be a part of the membership because of our minimum SC level
 - Why not rethink the entire membership model? Should we continue to have the same model? This could be a good time to reimagine what membership and participation at Internet2 "look like"
 - There is a trend here with the last two topics discussed today. There are important ideas for us to continue to explore. Is there room for strategic planning of some sort?
 - Aligns with the thought exercises currently underway of how to elevate more participation, value, and potential membership from folks who are not members
- **As May Arise**
 - Next CE PAG meeting on Wednesday, August 25th