

## Executive Summary of XSEDE Advisory Board Meeting

**Meeting Date:** February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Meeting Place:** Teleconference via Skype.

**Preface:** *The primary topic of this meeting was an update from John regarding the mid-year review with NSF. Included a brief discussion of process for approving meeting minutes.*

[Summary of meeting comments and XAB suggestions](#)

### Update from John regarding the mid-year review:

The outcome was a very positive response from the Panel, and XSEDE was given clear guidance for the scope of the review. However, the panel review did stray beyond that in some ways. For example, there were some panelists who had not reviewed XSEDE before and were not briefed ahead of time; also, there were some questions asked that XSEDE hadn't been give notice of, so the team was not completely prepared to respond to some questions. Due to illness, John was unable to travel; so he participated by listening and watching.

The team received 17 written and 2 verbal questions and responded. The expectation in terms of back-and-forth with the panel was somewhat different than in the past. They'd been expecting a draft response at the meeting, with a final response within a week.

Generally, XSEDE encourages other NSF Program Officers to observe. However, XSEDE was caught off guard by other NSF program officers engaging in conversation without being directly asked, for example: "Why are you spending any resources on digital humanities which is out of scope for NSF". This was unexpected, and distracting.

XSEDE is preparing written responses to the Panel Report, and has submitted feedback about the process.

The team is constantly weighing the various challenges of being technically sound, while also being innovative (a Strategic Goal), while also readily accessible/approachable. That balance is part of the challenge we are continually working with.

### Succession Plan for Ralph Roskies

The XSEDE Program, and the XAB, have long known and appreciated the unique role that Dr. Roskies has played within the program, and the many hats he wears. Fortunately, XSEDE has a well-developed succession plan, so that while he might be irreplaceable (no one person can quite fill all the roles he has), there are plans in action to cover those roles with other (or new) personnel. The XAB requested updates as these plans go forward. The XAB also expressed its highest appreciation for Ralph's long-standing commitment and service to XSEDE, and the Board's sadness upon learning of his retirement from the program - he will be sorely missed. While we trust the succession planning to take care of his official duties, there is little one can do to replace his passion and care and long-term husbandry of this program. The XAB commends him most highly, and wishes him well in all of his future endeavors.