

Advisory Review Workgroup

May 11, 2021

In Attendance: Jason Corwin, Allison Robbins, Lisa Koteen Gerchick, Kate Hanley, Rachel Lawless, Tram Nguyen, Jessica Ackerman, Katie Boyle, JoAnne Speiden, Walt Latham, and guests Charles Stewart III and Lonna Atkeson

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair - Lisa Koteen Gerchick at 10:01 AM.
2. Approval of Minutes for the March 16, 2021 and April 13, 2021 Advisory Workgroup Meetings.
 - a. Motion for Acceptance
 - b. Seconded
 - c. Without objection minutes were adopted
3. A nomination was made for the new secretary Jason Corwin by Lisa Koteen Gerchick for May - July 2021.
 - a. Motion in favor - Kate Hanley
 - b. Seconded - Jessica Ackerman
 - c. Without objection motion carried
4. Lisa Gerchick introduced one of our two speakers for the day Professor Lonna Rae Atkeson, University of New Mexico. Professor Atkeson gave the first presentation, entitled "Evaluating Elections."
 - a. Professor Atkeson covered uses of evaluations, how to measure data, how to make meaningful comparisons, and making sure to gather quality data.
 - b. How to tailor research to guide metrics.
 - c. Operationalizing Research
 - i. Define the issues
 - ii. How to set proper measurements
 - d. What does Election Evaluation Provide?
 - i. Good quality data
 1. Make sure data is based on facts and evidence
 2. Data should be used to evaluate elections
 - e. Lisa Koteen Gerchick asked how to execute this process, given that neither the state nor localities have or would provide resources.
 - i. Reply - find a university partner, or independent group.
 - f. Kate Hanley - How to establish metrics for evaluation?
 - i. Discussion ensued but is open-ended
5. Lisa Gerchick then introduced the second of our two speakers for the day, Professor Charles Stewart III, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The title of his presentation is "Measuring Election Performance."
 - a. Use of two related models described

- i. Elections Performance Index (EPI) - standard set of rankings nationwide
 - ii. Using a dashboard (e.g. Accountability in Colorado Elections (ACE))
- b. EPI - has 17 indicators that show how elections are run.
 - i. Most indicators are found in existing, available data
 - ii. Indicators were chosen by an advisory board of election officials and academics (evenly split) from blue, purple and red states.
- c. Data must meet certain standards:
 - i. Reliable source;
 - ii. available and consistent over time;
 - iii. available and consistent for all states;
 - iv. reflect salient outcomes of good elections;
 - v. easily understood by the public; and
 - vi. produced for the near future.
- d. Questions to ask
 - i. What would a well-run election look like operationally?
 - ii. What is being measured, and is it relevant to the definition of a well-run election?
 - iii. How do you want to present the data?
- e. ACE model
 - i. Puts context around data in a visual way
- f. Introduced a third model "Great Lakes Election Landscapes"
 - i. Data retrieved from the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC)
 - ii. Data broken down to county level
- g. Lisa Gerchick asked which entity is responsible for responding to mis- and disinformation, local or state? Answer:
 - i. Local is best where practical.
 - ii. State, however, needs to be available for assistance where needed.
- h. Kate Hanley noted uniformity is important but limiting. She asked if the speakers found that to be true.
 - i. Professor Stewart answered that this is a nationwide issue whether top down or bottom up not sure of the best way to handle.
- i. Allison Robbins asked who would be responsible for funding this type of research?
 - i. Professor Stewart replied the process should be driven by a respected trusted entity.
 - ii. Professor Atkeson observed that a larger locality can be a driving force.
- j. Lisa Gerchick sought the speakers' reactions to the Workgroup's current definition of a successful election: That it be accessible, efficient, transparent, managed with integrity so the public can have confidence with results.

i. Professor Atkeson answered that those are good abstract ideas but the Workgroup must flesh them out. The only thing she would add is some sort of finality. You need the election to end.

ii. Professor Stewart said that if the definition works for Virginia, then it is the correct one. What are the metrics? Figure out how to measure, and what are the data sources.

k. Walt Latham expressed concern is that if outside academics might misconstrue our data.

i. Professor Stewart replied that it is important to develop trust with academic partners. Collect the data to have accurate information based on data, and be able to explain your process.

6. Public comment - there was none

7. Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Corwin, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Corwin', written in a cursive style.

Next Meeting: not discussed