



Fact Sheet: CESU Network Council Roles and Responsibilities

At the national level, the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network Council establishes policies guiding the activities of all partners. The Council operates under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and meets twice a year. Each federal agency assigns senior level managers to serve as **CESU Network Council Representative and Alternate**, who works closely with the CESU Network Coordinator and his staff.

CESU Network Council Representative Responsibilities

Serve as the official liaison between the CESU Network and the member's agency

- communicate with the agency's technical and administrative representatives about deliberations at the CESU Council and how these affect individual CESUs
- ensure that federal technical or administrative representatives to a CESU understand their roles and responsibilities
- provide agency-specific guidance for conducting CESU projects through handbooks and other policy documents

Establish, maintain, and revise CESU Network policies and procedures

- deliberate on issues pertinent to all partners including setting the indirect cost rate
- issue memorandums to communicate about networkwide changes

Approve the addition of new federal agencies into the CESU Network

- review and vote on applications from potential federal agencies

Select host universities for new CESUs, evaluate existing CESUs, and approve renewal of CESU agreements

- establish appropriate criteria for selection of new and evaluation of existing CESUs
- annually review and vote on the renewing CESUs, regardless of agency membership in that CESU

Develop and support CESU Network initiatives

- as appropriate, coordinate agency funding opportunities across the CESU Network

Appoint and evaluate the CESU Network National Coordinator

- set priorities for the CESU Network Coordinator and staff

Form working groups to assist the Council

- as needed, participate in and support working groups to plan, coordinate, and facilitate the implementation of actions developed by the Council



For more information, see www.cesu.org or contact Dr. Thomas E. Fish, CESU National Coordinator, at tom_fish@nps.gov.

