

ESS Agenda Brief September 27, 2011

Agenda Item: Policy Board of Directors Report

Presenter: Steve Slack

The Policy Board of Directors met on July 19 in Boston, MA prior to the Joint COPs meeting. Below are some highlights from that meeting.

1. Chair remarks – Scott Angle
 - CARET has a new logo and is producing a video that explains its purpose
2. ESS PBD representative election
 - Steve Slack was elected to complete Mark McLellan's term, Barbara Allen-Diaz will be the alternate
 - Board asked Eddie Gouge and Ian Maw to look into changing bylaws so alternate automatically becomes member if a member leaves the section/group they represent
3. Policy Board of Directors liaison to CLP
 - Scott Angle appointed Steve Slack as CLP liaison
4. NIFA Update – Meryl Broussard
 - Chavonda Jacobs-Young was appointed Acting NIFA Director
 - Principle Scientist searches have been cancelled due to budget cuts
 - Recruiting for Food Safety/Nutrition Assistant Director, person has been selected but still in final clearance process
 - Tina Buch retired, Paula Greger will be new Budget Officer
 - Jim Spurling retired, Ben Neralla is new Legislative Liaison
 - Bob MacDonald went to ARS, new director for Planning, Reporting & Accountability will be selected
 - Loss of earmarks reduced NIFA operating budget significantly, 2012 cuts likely bigger
 - Farm Bill audit hearings are occurring now, agencies will be testifying on research title programs, particularly mandatory lines
 - AFRI will combine 2011 and 2012 RFAs because 2011 is so far behind and budget cuts have reduced the funds available for new grants
5. Budget and Advocacy Committee – Bev Durgan
 - Federal Budget process – Hunt Shipman
 - House mark up was very bad for our program lines
 - Senate action won't happen until mid to late September
 - Amendment to move mandatory lines into capacity was never introduced
 - Preparing for Senate advocacy
 - Updating impact one-pagers, research and extension together, by end of July
 - Discussed 302 B allocations and how to impact that, i.e. how much each subcommittee is given to appropriate
 - House Ag subcommittee was given a 14.5% reduction to appropriate
 - Other subcommittees were only reduced 1 to 7% and science agencies under them were cut similarly
 - Can't directly impact the 302 B process but can influence it thru pointing out programs that are impacted, i.e. unified statement on value of all programs-food safety, feeding, conservation, etc
 - Send a message that this subcommittee has taken its cuts, future cuts should be less
 - Setting up a Task Force to draft this message, details will be worked out
 - Budget and Advocacy Committee and Policy Board of Directors chairs and Ian will figure out how to convene this Task Force and target 2013 budget process

- FY 2013 budget approach
 - Discussing changing Farm Bill language to fund NIFA with a one line budget and a formula for distribution to all current lines
 - Budget and Advocacy Committee & CLP will need to work together to figure out how this should be done
 - Start with set baseline budget and divide any increase over that based on an overall formula to all lines
 - If there's a reduction from baseline budget, the reduction only comes from competitive lines and capacity lines are not reduced but held constant at baseline
 - Need to get buy-in from entire system for this to be successful on the Hill
 - Probably need to use FY2011 as the baseline budget because its most recent enacted
 - This would combine advocacy for capacity and competitive into one effort, system and stakeholders would advocate for single amount for NIFA
 - This would still be dependent on appropriations which could override the formula, but if system advocates together that's much less likely
 - System needs to concentrate in advocacy on what we do, not our structure
 - CLP will have a conference call next week and a meeting in early-September to finalize language for Cornerstone by mid-September
 - Decision process
 - Cornerstone needs to give language to authorizers by early November, so Cornerstone needs CLP/Policy board of Directors decision by mid-September
 - July 20 - COPs generate questions
 - Late July - CLP Conference call
 - Late August - Sections discuss and decide on support
 - Early September – CLP meeting
 - September 15 - CLP proposal language to Cornerstone
 - BAC recommends Cornerstone's contract continue, excellent performance review
6. System Integration Task Force
- FSLI-LEAD21 collaboration discussion continuing
 - Face to face meeting in August was cancelled due to travel restrictions of FSLI and replaced with a conference call on Aug 10
7. APLU Conference 2011
- Board on Agriculture Assembly business meeting
 - Keynote on college restructuring by Randy Woodson
8. Policy Board of Directors elections
- APS, CES, non-land grants, and 1890 Extension seats are up for election
9. Appointment of CARET at-large delegate
- Joe MacDonald was re-appointed
10. ESCOP Marketing
- Shifting strategy to include more social media
 - Changed marketing firm to K-Global and contract has been signed
 - Adding two ECOP representatives to committee
11. LEAD21
- Audit report has been completed, actual debt is approx \$108,000
 - APLU has provided loan to cover debt, to be paid back in 5 years
 - Program needed to move from Fanning Institute, University of Minnesota agreed to manage program for one year
 - An RFP for the LEAD21 contract will be put out to system in Fall

- RFP would clarify the roles of the contracting institution, LEAD21 Board, and Policy board of Directors
- Contract will include schedule for pay back of APLU loan
- Motion to approve this strategy from LEAD21 Board passed unanimously
- PBD appointed Bruce McPheron, Steve Slack, and Ian Maw to work with Arlen Leholm, Dick Senese, and Jeff Jacobsen to develop RFP

12. FSLI request for scholarship funds

- Previously \$34,000 was given in each of 3 years
- Scholarships were used to partially support fellows
- No evidence of effort to find funding for scholarships from other sources
- Currently requesting \$17,000/year
- Motion – Policy Board of Directors lauds FSLI’s program to train future leaders of the system, however the PBD cannot provide support for scholarships as requested as there has not been any accountability to the PBD in terms of annual programmatic and financial reports. Motion - passed

Action Requested: None, information only