

Item 10 The ESCOP Budget

Presenters: Bob Shulstad and Jeff Jacobsen

Action Requested: Discussion and Approval of Motion

A committee consisting of: Bob Shulstad (Chair) and all research EDs were formed to review current guidelines and practices associated with current and future ESS budget practices and decisions. If needed, recommendations were to be provided to ESCOP.

From the Rules of Operation Experiment Station Section (ESS) Board on Agriculture Assembly Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (Amended 2012):

“The Chair of ESCOP may authorize the expenditure of assessed funds up to \$5,000 with 2/3 approval of the ESCOP Executive Committee (page 5).”

APLU has one account where all historical ESS assessments are deposited. In turn, all ESS invoices are expended from this account. Recent assessments for the Communications and Marketing effort has resulted in additional funds that remain as a reserve, since other COPS have joined the C&M effort, thereby reducing the annual ESS expenditure.

Recently, the frequency and need for additional resources to support other ESS activities has increased. Recent examples include: NC-FAR annual membership, NC-FAR Lunch and Learn seminar, APLU Awards recognition brochure and program (specific to ESS), national impact writing effort, and ESS standing committee meetings. A regular ESS account that could be utilized for these diverse purposes and in accordance with existing policies and practices does not technically exist.

Therefore, we propose to conduct an ESS vote at the Fall ESS 2016 meeting which would allow for other ESS uses with this account. Due to various circumstances, there are available funds, yet no formally approved mechanism to utilize without a new ESS-approved written guideline. Each year (Aug-Sept), the ESCOP chair and chair-elect, with EDs' help, will create an annual budget with expected income and expenses for the coming year. This will be presented to the ESS during the business meeting for approval and any specific expenditure (like N-CFAR dues) will not need further approval. Then, at each ESCOP meeting during the year, the Chair will report any expenditure that occurred, including unanticipated ones, since the previous meeting, as part of the Interim Actions agenda item. The ESCOP Chair will communicate to APLU approved expenditures as voted upon by the ESCOP Executive Committee (12 members).

The Motion could be something like:

The ESCOP Executive Committee has authority, through the existing Rules of Operation, to approve annual expenditures from the ESS account at APLU from prior assessments provided the primary intended use has been met or will be met, and the potential expenditure is deemed to be important and beneficial to ESS.

The current account summary for the last three years was provided by APLU.

ESS APLU Account (1/2012 to 12/2015)	
Income (dues, meetings, assessment)	\$1,200,548
Expenses	
Contract Services (consultants, computer services)	786,212
Office Operations	1,560
Travel and Meetings (staff, non-staff, meetings)	9,057
Other (dues, membership, bad debt)	11,730
RESERVE	\$ 391,988