Agenda Brief: Association of Research Directors' (ARD) Report to ESCOP (at 2009 APLU meeting)

Presenter: Orlando F. McMeans

The 1890 sections (all 5 of them) are represented on the Council of Presidents/Chancellors' 1890 Budget and Legislative Committee. This committee is consulted on the System's Budget and Advocacy Committee requests for input from the 1890s and thus the 1890s recently deliberated on the proposed strategy from research and extension to ask Congress to significantly reinvest in the Land-Grant System through substantial increases to formula funding. Whether or not the sections of the System support "Reinvesting in the Land Grant University System" strategy, the Association of 1890 Research Directors will continue to seek the Farm Bill authorized level for Evans-Allen funding.

The ARD held its summer meeting in Asheville, NC from August 10 - 14, 2009. One day was devoted to investigating partnership potential with the U.S. Forest Service since the Southern Region Station of the Forest Service is located in Asheville. The membership received important updates at this meeting from partners and affiliates.

The ARD and AEA Association chairs and Executive Director and Executive Administrator participated in roundtable discussions and gave presentations at the Summer Meeting of the Council of 1890 Presidents and Chancellors in Nashville, TN in August, 2009 to ensure alignment of the 1890s' research and extension programs with the expectations of the CEOs of these campuses.

Representatives from the 1890 universities participated in the *Biofuels for Aviation Summit* in Washington, DC on September 1 - 2, 2009. The 1890s are strengthening their capabilities in the biofuels arena and a beginning inventory about various campus initiatives can be found on the ARD website after being developed by Dr. Mike Bomford at Kentucky State University.

Rather than a winter meeting of the ARD, the research directors will have a workshop relating to strategic planning and orientation sessions for new directors by NIFA administrative staff and seasoned 1890 research directors. This workshop will take place in January, 2010 in Key West, FL.

Planning is underway for the fall 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Meeting and Workshop. Because Dr. Orlando McMeans is the Chair-Elect of ESCOP, the 1890s are the hosting Section for the 2010 meeting. The meeting will take place in Nashville, TN beginning with regional meetings on September 27, 2010.

Planning is underway for The 16th Biennial Research Symposium of the ARD to be held in April, 2011. Again, particular emphasis will be placed on student participation. National Priority Topic areas and integrated programming will be the themes for presentations. The two highest awards conferred by the ARD will be awarded to two outstanding scientists, the Morrison Outstanding Scientist Award and the B.D. Mayberry Young Scientist Award.