

ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 28, 2005

Attendees:

Jerry Arkin (University of Georgia)
D.C. Coston (Oklahoma State University)
Nancy Cox (University of Kentucky)
Gary Cunningham (CSREES)
LeRoy Daugherty (New Mexico State University)
Samuel Donald (ARD Executive Director)
Mike Harrington (ED-WAAESD)
Colin Kaltenbach (University of Arizona)
Abbott Lee (CARET)
Daryl Lund (ED-NCRA)
Darrell Nelson (University of Nebraska)
Alfred Parks (Prairie View A&M)
Mark Rokala (BRT)
Steve Slack (Ohio State University)
Greg Weidemann (University of Arkansas)
Eric Young (ED-SAAESD)

Agenda Item 1:

Action Taken

Minutes - approved

Agenda Item 2:

Action Taken

Interim Actions – approved

Agenda Item 3: CSREES Report

A. NIMSS and NRSP-1

- Will implement proposal to incorporate NIMSS budget into NRSP-1
- Will provide 25/75 split between CSREES/ off the top

B. LGU input on NRI priorities

- a. RFPs have to be written by CSREES
- b. Currently CSREES uses the following sources to set priorities:
 1. REE priorities
 2. Review panel recommendations on needs in specific areas
 3. Portfolio review process and panel recommendations, particularly on relevance of particular research areas
- c. Multistate project groups and regional associations may provide mechanisms for additional input in the future.

- d. There is a concern that occasionally a proposal is rejected because it doesn't fit the RFA, even though the scientist thinks it does. What recourse does the PI have?
 - i. It is possible to fund a compelling proposal that's outside the RFA
- C. Formula Funds situation
- a. CSREES is doing contingency planning for how to implement President's budget in case it passes congress.
 - b. Most of the animal health funds would be moved to the NRI
 - c. New Competitive Fund for Agriculture Experiment Stations would include:
 - 1. 406 funds
 - 2. Some animal health
 - 3. Multistate activities
 - 4. Long term support for infrastructure
 - d. If President's budget passes a lot of these details will be worked out with the LGUs
 - e. Increase of NRI indirect cost rate reduces the buying power of NRI
 - f. If indirect rate is also full for the new program, funds for research will be reduced
 - g. Need to investigate transactional costs for competitive funding
 - h. Another disadvantage of competitive funds is the lack of flexibility to address rapidly immerging issues

Agenda Item 4: Formula Funds

- Task Force should make recommendations to PBD, through ESCOP, for action related to Formula Funds
- Task Force was also asked to consider the strategy of asking for new Formula Funds that would be used for a specific program area, ie water.
- Colien indicated that a large return on investments of Formula Funds meant industry should support it. Task Force should consider the validity of this philosophy.

Agenda Item 5: NIFA Status

- Senator Bond will reintroduce S.3009 prior to Easter break
- A similar bill will also be introduced in the House
- Hearings on these bills will provide opportunity to discuss science needs in agriculture
- Advocacy for NIFA should probably be coordinated from outside NASULGC
- Email Howard at Gobstein@msu.edu with any comments

Agenda Item 6: NIAS

- See PowerPoint for report
- Board of Directors will meet soon to discuss membership and arrangements for sending invoices.

Agenda Item 7: LEAD 21

Agenda Item 8: Germplasm Task Force

Action Taken

- Task Force draft report was accepted
- Draft report will be transmitted to Ed Knipling and Colien and Tom arrange a meeting with each one to discuss the report
- Regional Associations should review the report and make comments to the TF by May 1

Agenda Item 9: SAES/ARD Workshop

- Topics
 - Tuesday morning – ARD will design
 - Tuesday early pm – Civil Rights – Fretz
 - Re-engineering Experiment Station – Lou Swanson and Mike Harrington
 - Impact writing workshop?

Action Taken

- St. Anthony Hotel, Wyndham, San Antonio, TX – approved for location

Agenda Item 10: Partnership Working Group Futuring Conference

- Registration and hotel information will be sent out soon

Agenda Item 11: ESCOP Planning Committee future

- Partnership Working Group is beginning to lead long-range planning
- Budget and Legislative committee can do prioritization of research areas beyond base funding and NRI
 - Budget and Legislative can appoint ad-hoc committees to write descriptions of priority budget areas when needed

Action Taken

- Motion to eliminate Planning Committee – Nelson/Weidemann – passed unanimously
- Recommendation will go to full ESCOP in July for approval
- If approved, by-law change will be voted on at ESS meeting in September.

Agenda Item 12: Budget and Legislative Committee

- Prospects from Fleishman Hillard to do semi annual seminars with congressional MC to showcase LGU programs
 - ESCOP supports this concept. Think it's a good idea
 - Also, recommend seeking support across all COPS

Agenda Item 15: ESCOP Assessment

- Need to put this question on CAC call

Agenda Item 16: NASULGC fee for managing ESCOP account

- ESCOP PBD representative should bring this issue to the Policy Board

Agenda Item 17: Other Items

- CAC call on March 7 is cancelled