

Item 4.0

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee Agenda Brief

Presenters: Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington

For information only

The committee holds regular conference calls on the last Tuesday of each month. These calls have generally been well attended. The current B&L Committee membership is shown below.

<p>Chair: Gary Thompson (NERA)</p> <p>Delegates: Barry Bequette (ARD) Carolyn Brooks (ED-ARD) Karen Plaut (NCRA) Ernie Minton NCRA Tim Phipps (NERA) John Wraith (NERA) Bill Brown (SAAESD) Saied Mostaghimi (SAAESD) Jim Moyer (WAAESD) Jeff Steiner (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Emir Albores (NIFA) Caird Rexroad (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Dina Chacon-Reitzel (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p> <p>*Chair elect</p>
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The B&L Committee will be holding a breakfast meeting on March 3 in conjunction with the AHS-CARET meetings. Discussions will focus on how the committee can be effective in working with the ECOP Budget and Legislative Committee to provide integrated approaches and leadership in developing a defined “advocacy infrastructure model” for future budget efforts such as the Water Security Initiative.

BAC Priorities: The BAC met by conference call on Feb 10, 2015 to finalize the system’s response to the President’s FY 2016 Budget Proposal. The BAC approved appropriations requests for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) with the exception of the competitive programs that had been incorporated into the capacity programs. Capacity programs should remain as such, not competitive. A slightly modified “Dear Colleague” letter has been distributed to all institutions with a request that members be contacted. Small changes to the McIntire Stennis (+5%) and 1994 (+\$3 Million) requests were approved. No other changes in priorities as stated to the seven core priorities: AFRI, capacity funds for Hatch, Evans-Allen –McIntire-Stennis, Smith-Lever, 1890 Extension and 1994 Research and Extension. The system will remain silent on the “Innovation Institutes.” In keeping with past practice, The BAC position is to endorse the President’s Budget or our 2016 numbers whichever are higher.

All documents related the federal budget and the Farm Bill are located at the land-grant.org website.