

Item

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: Moses Kairo (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) Tom Holtzer (WAAESD)</p> <p>Executive Vice-Chair Mike Harrington (WAAESD)</p>	<p>Liaisons</p> <p>Rick Klemme (ECOP Liaison) Robin Shepard (ED-NCERA) Bob Holland (NIFA) Paula Geiger (NIFA) Vacant (ARS) Glen Hoffsis (APLU Vet Med) Eddie Gouge (APLU) Ian Maw (APLU) Connie Pelton Kays (CARET) Cheryl Achterberg (APLU - BoHS)</p> <p>Jim Richards (Cornerstone) Hunt Shipman (Cornerstone) Vernie Hubert (Cornerstone)</p>
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New Initiatives Document: Alan Grant, BAC Chair, presented the ESCOP and ECOP approved document to the BAC at its meeting on Oct 20. The document was approved as presented by the BAC and will be forwarded to the Policy Board for adoption.

Crop Protection Update: The consolidation of pest management lines had unintended consequences, namely the allowance of indirect charges in the Extension Pest Management Program. Fewer than 50% of institutions waived indirect costs. Solutions to the loss of approximately \$3 million to the Extension IPM program are being sought. According to the NIFA General Counsel, moving the program under Smith-Lever 3d (while negating indirect charges) would preclude funding of *any* research and all programs would need to be re-competed.

Robin Shepard, Jim Richards, and Mike Harrington recently met with NIFA pest management staff to seek solutions. The conclusion was to leave the program under 406 (current placement) and legislatively exclude the Extension Pest Management program from indirect costs. Language has been provided to congressional staff.

Competitive Grants Transaction Costs Study: The Committee is considering questions that are germane to the development of an overview of transactional costs involved in the federal competitive grants process. The Committee received a spreadsheet showing data from the AFRI synopsis reports. The funding shortfall minimum was \$387M in FY12.

The estimated transactional costs should reflect the amount of time a single investigator takes to develop a proposal. More complex proposals will likely cost more because there are additional administrative costs. The review process must also consider the administrative burden to institutions.

The primary outcome would be to fully understand the transactional costs of competitive grants, including those costs that are borne by the academic institutions. This information can be used in support of increasing the NIFA budget to its fully authorized (not allocated) amount of \$700 million. There was discussion about funding agencies other than NIFA and whether to include compliance issues as a component of the analysis.

Institutional Requests for LGU Status: The Committee has initiated discussion of the requests from institutions to attain LGU status. Central State University in Ohio was added as an 1890 last year with no additional resources to the overall 1890 federal budget allocations. The Louisiana legislature has recently passed a resolution requesting Grambling State University be admitted as an 1890 institution, and there have been inquiries from other institutions to be considered for 1862 status. There was a general consensus of the Committee that this is an important topic for consideration, possibly in partnership with the ECOP B&L committee. The Committee will be reviewing legislation that created the LGU system and mission.