

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee
Teleconference Notes
Monday, April 19, 2010– 4:00 pm EDT

Participants:

Clarence Watson- ESCOP Chair
Eric Young – ESCOP Executive Vice-Chair, SAAESD
Mike Harrington - WAAESD
Arlen Leholm – NCRA
Jerry Arkin – Communications & Marketing Committee
Mike Vayda – Budget & Legislative Committee
Bill Ravlin – Science & Technology Committee
Nancy Cox – BAA/PBD Representative
Dan Rossi – NERA
Hunt Shipman– Cornerstone
Donna Pearce – SAAESD, Recorder

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
ED's	Develop a draft of the AFRI response	
Budget & Legislative Committee	Will take the lead in collecting input for the 2012 Farm Bill process	

1. Report from the Chair – Clarence Watson
 - Appointed Ed Smith as the ECOP liaison to ESCOP
 - Appointed Nancy Cox to the ESCOP Communication & Marketing Committee
2. Review of Action Items from March 15 CAC call –Clarence Watson
3. Nominees for Policy Board of Directors – Eric Young
 - Clarence has received the nomination request and form from APLU
 - Due July 14
 - Nominees
 - North Central – Steve Slack
 - Northeast – Mike Vayda
 - South – N/A
 - West – will submit a nominee after Executive Committee call this week

4. 2012 Farm Bill Process (**handout attached**) – Eric Young
 - Start seeking inputs on the 2012 Farm Bill
 - Initial input would be changes, additions, deletions and new authorizations. There will be a number of questions asked to guide this input
 - Initial input is due July 15
 - Input will be compiled into a list initially, not bill language
 - Cornerstone will send the list back out to the section leadership before July 26
 - CLP will have a conference call on July 26 to go over list of inputs
 - From July 26 until the end of September they want the sections to look over the inputs from all the sections to consider if there any conflicts, things that should be combined, or additional inputs or modifications
 - Send out revised list of inputs on September 30
 - CLP Committee conference call on October 29
 - Cornerstone is suppose to draft Farm Bill language based on the input
 - CPL Committee will have a face to face meeting during the APLU Conference
 - Cornerstone hopes to have the initial language drafted and ready to go to CLP by the end of January 2011
 - Second draft of bill language will go out to the CLP members on March 31, 2011
 - To initiate the process Cornerstone is drafting a memo with instructions and format on how to send in the input
5. Coordinated response to AFRI (**handout attached**) – Arlen Leholm
 - Sufficient interest to have some type of coordinated response to AFRI's RFA
 - Science & Tech Committee discussed AFRI's RFA at their meeting in Dallas
 - Institute for Food Technology is also putting together a response
 - During the NCRA meeting there was concern that we might have some competing letters coming from the system
 - ED's will put AFRI RFA's response on their agenda
6. NRSP-1 funding and REEport input - Arlen Leholm
 - What mechanism do we have for input to make sure our NIMSS System is funded?
 - Support for NIMSS will be addressed
 - There's no intent to do away with NIMSS
 - Will proceed with a program to support NIMSS in the future
7. Budget and Legislative Committee Update –Mike Vayda/Mike Harrington
 - Conference call Tuesday, April 20
8. Science and Technology Committee Update –Bill Ravlin/Dan Rossi
 - Multistate Award process is on track and we should have all nominees from the regions by the end of the month
 - Will have all the nominees mentioned during the APLU program during the award process
 - Roadmap
 - 7 challenge teams that are fully populated
 - 3 to 4 scientist working on the White Paper in each of the topics
 - On time schedule

- Will have at least half dozen people look over the first document to get some input
- Have asked teams to have first draft reviewed by mid-May then revised document to S&T committee by mid-June

9. Communication & Marketing Update –Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm

- 8 people have been nominated to join the committee from ESCOP
- South
 - Mary Duryea
 - Nancy Cox
- Northeast
 - Stephen Herbert
 - Mike Hoffman
- North Central
 - Wendy Wintersteen
 - Bill Ravlin
- West
 - Colin Kaltenbach
 - Ron Pardini
- 1890's

10. 2010 ESS/SAES/ARD Workshop – Orlando McMeans

- No report

11. Other business

- Next call Monday, May 17th

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Pearce

April 22, 2010

Process Memorandum

TO: BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)
FROM: D.C. Coston, CLP Chair
SUBJ: Preparation for 2012 Farm Bill
DATE: March 18, 2010

Congress is expected to start work on the next Farm Bill in early 2011. Therefore, it is time for the CLP to begin to develop the recommendations of the APLU Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA) for reauthorization of programs administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and other USDA agencies. This memorandum describes a proposed methodology and timeline for development of such recommendations. It has been developed in conjunction with APLU staff and Cornerstone Government Affairs and will be ratified by the CLP during our next conference call.

Cornerstone will be available to all members of the CLP for assistance as the process develops, with Vernie Hubert acting as the day to day CLP Farm Bill process manager.

Proposed Process and Timeline

1. Review by BAA Component Organizations. As in prior Farm Bill rounds, we will begin by asking the sections and other organizations represented on the CLP to identify their individual Farm Bill priorities as well as programs/priorities that affect the entire land-grant system. These are the questions that should be put to your colleagues:

- Which NIFA programs should be reauthorized in the next Farm Bill?
- Which programs (if any) should be combined?
- Which programs (if any) should be eliminated?
- For programs to be reauthorized, should the existing authorized funding level be increased?
- For programs to be reauthorized is it desirable to change the authorization language? If such changes are necessary, what are the specific changes that you seek and why?
- Given the success in securing mandatory (not subject to annual appropriations) funding in the 2008 Farm Bill, are there other new/innovative competitive grant opportunities that should be pursued? Do the current mandatory research programs need to be reauthorized as currently constructed or do they need modification?
- Are the NIFA and broader USDA research, education, and extension structure and organization working as intended? Are legislative enhancements/modifications required?

Deadline for broad recommendations: July 15, 2010

2. CLP Review and Ratification. CLP component organizations should develop their own internal Farm Bill development process to ensure that proposals brought forward to the CLP for review and ratification have been thoroughly vetted and are broadly representative of that organization's membership. All such recommendations must be forwarded to me in writing, no later than July 15, 2010, so that they can be properly reviewed and organized by APLU staff and Cornerstone.

Proposed Timeline:

- July 15, 2010, deadline for submission of broad recommendations.
- September 30, 2010, collected recommendations distributed to CLP members for comment and review.
- November 15, 2010, CLP meets during APLU annual meeting in Dallas, Texas and reviews, modifies, and ratifies recommendations.

3. Bill Language Drafting. It is proposed that we follow a reiterative drafting/review process similar to the one successfully employed by the CREATE-21 and BAA Farm Bill Committees in preparation for the 2008 Farm Bill.

Proposed Timeline:

- January 31, 2011, first draft of bill language delivered by Cornerstone to CLP members.
- February 28, 2011, deadline for comments on initial draft.
- March 31, 2011, second draft of bill language distributed to CLP members.

4. Meetings and Conference Calls.

- April 12, 2010, conference call
 - Discussion of process memo
 - Questions on process and desired outcomes
- July 26, 2010, conference call, discussion of broad recommendations.
- October 29, 2010, conference call, discussion of collected recommendations.
- November 15, 2010, CLP at annual meeting.

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**National Institute of Agriculture, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Issues
Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Experiment Station Section**

1. ESCOP recognizes and supports NIFA's focus on solving many of today's societal needs and issues and supports encouraging interdisciplinary teams to address such issues.
2. ESCOP also recognizes the need to demonstrate the system's ability to address societal issues as this will lead to continued Congressional support and increased fund availability.
3. Small institutions are somewhat isolated and have fewer resources than larger institutions. This may lead to not being included in AFRI project teams and/or not being competitive thus, not having access to AFRI funds. Even though there are small institutions there is significant expertise that can contribute to addressing AFRI issues. There is a need to find a means to provide/facilitate small institutions with a means to contribute.
4. The ESCOP S&T Committee recognizes the importance of large interdisciplinary, multi-institutional projects and agrees that these kinds of teams are essential to addressing today's most significant societal issues. However, the Committee has grave concerns over the de-emphasis of smaller, single investigator projects. It is these smaller projects that encourage creativity and attract young brilliant minds to science and specifically the agbiosciences. Young investigators begin their careers with projects such as these and often are selected to participate on large teams only after proving themselves with individual efforts. From a practical standpoint this can further impact promotion and tenure rates and ultimately the number bright young scientists progressing through U.S. higher educational systems. The ESCOP S&T Committee encourages NIFA to develop programs that encourage young scientists and ideas that fall outside the mainstream.
5. There is also a concern over the seeming de-emphasis of some selected components of agbioscience systems and are ability to capitalize on decades of progress. For example, in plant and animal systems many challenges can be addressed only by taking advantage of decades of progress in genomics but will falter without continued support. Exploring the intersection of these systems is without question critical but balancing broader perspectives with disciplinary focus will yield continued progress and many solutions to societal issues.
6. ESCOP encourages NIFA to actively seek broad-based input to future program (e.g., AFRI) development. While ESCOP is confident that NIFA has attempted to balance the needs of their many stakeholders and partners there is a widespread concern that the long-held partnership between the Land Grant system and USDA has eroded and this will constrain the U.S.'s ability to address local, regional, national, and international issues.