

ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee
 Teleconference Notes
 August 22, 2011 4:00 pm EDT

Participants:

Arlen Leholm – NCRA	Dan Rossi – NERA
Steve Slack – B & L Com. Chair	Mike Harrington - WAAESD
Carolyn Brooks – ESCOP Exec. Vice-Chair	Jim Richards – Cornerstone
Lee Sommers – ESCOP Chair-Elect	Dan Rossi – NERA
Eric Young - SAAESD	Steve Pueppke – CLP Rep.
Ralph Cavalieri - NRSP Com. Chair	Bill Ravlin – S&T Com. Chair

Action Items:

Who	Action	Status
EDs	Go after 100% submission of the one-page impacts as they relate to currently proposed budget cuts to NIFA capacity lines if they have not already been submitted from the states.	
Pueppke, Slack, Harrington, Sommers(lead)	CLP representatives are to report back to the CAC summarizing outcomes of the September meeting. Communication will begin with the SAES sections by Sept. 16 th to either get feedback to the CLP report or to prepare the directors better for the Estes Park deliberations.	
EDS	Nudge directors to fill out the Science Roadmap priorities survey if they have not already done so	

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair of ESCOP, Lee Sommers. No additional items were recommended to be placed on the agenda.

B&L and BAC Reports: Steve Slack indicated that the one-line funding discussion continues.

- EDs were reminded to nudge their regions to submit to Cornerstone the one-page impacts as they relate to currently proposed budget cuts if they have not already submitted them.
- There have been some regional calls to discuss the one-line funding strategy
- The suggestion of surveying regions, as ECOP has done, was not deemed advisable because there has not been sufficient direct communication and thorough explanations for those outside of the leadership committees.

CLP Report: Steve Pueppke indicated that communication has been lacking about the one-line funding concept and the expectation is to have this discussion at the next CLP meeting in D.C. (Sept. 7 – 8th).

- D.C. Coston, now interim President at Dickenson State University, will now serve as co-chair of the CLP with Wendy Wintersteen.
- The Southern AHS and CARET met and discussed the concept and there were concerns because some Congressional staffers had said they were hesitant about the concept because such a strategy would take away the ability of appropriators to put money where they wanted to put it. They also wanted more consideration to be given to the breakdown of competitive funds to capacity funds, i.e. 50:50 rather than 70:30.

- Jim Richards indicated that he too had heard the “tying hands of the appropriators” comments and said this would be resolved if there is a unified message behind the single-line concept, which would translate into saying – ‘In fact this strategy is indeed what your constituents want.’ Previously it was found that key staffers from the House liked the one-line strategy more than those on the Senate side. Jim’s fear is that the system can oftentimes be its own worst enemy and seem to be unwisely skeptical about pushing forward with something new. As for the ratio of 50:50 versus 70:30, the structure is close to 70:30 now. So ratios of even 60:40 could also be considered. Jim indicated that not only do the administration and OMB favor a higher % for competitive programs, the scientific communities favor that as well and we cannot ignore their potential robust lobbying efforts. Ralph spoke as a director and felt capacity funding should keep up with inflation but our major efforts should be getting more for competitive research and Lee felt that by focusing on competitive funding more, support that is broader than the system could be attracted. The sobering comment by Jim is that we need to get protection against the downslide instead of arguing about new money in this regression environment.
- Even though there must be time to explain the one-line funding concept, vet it, lay out specifics, triggers, etc., the timeline will need to take into account that proceedings on the Farm Bill may be on a fast track.
- At the CLP meeting in early September, recommendations and modifications will come from the sections. The representatives on the CLP will quickly summarize and relay this input received at the meeting so that the turn-around time for responses from ESCOP can be quickly obtained. Since there is the possibility that the budget process may expedite the Farm Bill process, Vernie, having heard the dispositions of the CLP sections can at least be writing the language for the Farm Bill. Changes can still be made and altered during a quick timeline; but there is no need to wait for back and forth responses from the sections before initiating the writing of the legislative language. Reminder: The PBD must make the final endorsement.
- The disposition of ESCOP, according to its meeting in Boston is **“ESCOP would support the one-line funding approach in principle with the caveat that endorsement of this strategy would require discussion at the September, 2011 ESS meeting so that full sectional input and deliberation can first be provided.”** However, because the Farm Bill may be on the fast track, Lee will lead an effort with assistance from Mike to share information that resulted from the CLP meeting within one week (by September 16th). This may result in the directors’ early responses to the recommendations/modifications/resulting consensus from the CLP meeting or at least prepare them better for the discussions that will ensue on this topic at the Estes Park meeting.

S&T Committee Report – Bill Ravlin reported that their current initiative is to work with the C&M committee and the Roadmap Task Force to use the Roadmap as a marketing tool. Kglobal is also charged to help extract important pieces of the Roadmap for concise marketing material. Kglobal is planning to meet with C&M staff at two representative institutions – Univ. of GA and Fort Valley State in order to educate themselves more about how to work with the land grants. Responses to the survey to assist with prioritizing the Roadmap have been less than desired and EDs are asked to see if more directors will submit the survey.

ESS/SAES/ARD 2011 Meeting – Lee reported that ~70 have registered. For those who can not stay for the entire program, partial registration fees are available. Lee and Mike will make a site visit to the Stanley Hotel soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.

Recorder,

Carolyn B. Brooks