

**ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC)**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
**April 19, 2012**  
**NOTES**

**Participants:**

Jerry Arkin  
Sarah Lupis  
Mike Harrington  
Eric Young  
Dan Rossi  
Jim Richards  
Lee Sommers  
Bill Ravlin  
Steve Slack  
Steve Pueppke

**Summary of Actions/Follow-Up**

- Lee Sommers will follow-up with Doug Steele and the EDs to develop an agenda for the afternoon section meeting to take place during the Joint COPS meeting in July, including discussion of the CAST funding request.
- Lee Sommers will follow up with Doug Steele and Jane Schuhardt to develop a communications overview session during the Joint COPS meeting.
- Ian will share the CAST budget with the group.
- The EDs will work on putting together a session on BMPs for sharing for animal agriculture research.
- Steve Slack and Barbara Allen-Diaz were recommended to the Executive Committee for approval as ESCOP representatives to the PDB—approval to be handled electronically; Mike Harrington and Lee Sommers will facilitate this.

**Agenda:**

**1. Update on planning for the Joint COPS Summer Meeting, Savannah, GA. July 25-26 Marriott Riverfront Savannah GA - Dan Rossi**

- The theme for the meeting is “Moving the Morrell Act into the Future”
- Session 1—renewing partnership with USDA. Kathy Woteki has been asked to speak about the committee that is working on the LGU-NIFA partnership. There will be a response panel made up of COPS leadership, followed by Q&A.
- Session 2—strengthening private-public collaborations. Panel that includes representatives from Monsanto, the Environmental Defense Fund, and 1-2 other groups. Again there will be a response panel (not sure who this will be) and Q&A.
- Response Panels: Have discussed having current leadership for one panel and incoming leadership for another. Welcome to suggestions about who should serve on response panels.
- Allowed time after the joint session for Cornerstone update, policy board update, NIFA update. Section meetings would happen in the afternoon—there will be about 2 hours allotted for this. Lee will follow-up with Doug Steele and the EDs to develop an agenda.

**a. AHS request for joint session topic at the Joint COPS meeting: Overview of the various marketing/communications efforts that exist now and determine if there is, or should be, any coordination and alignment of their goals and outputs - Eric Young**

- This will be discussed during the joint ESCOP/ECOP session. Other COPS might be interested—AHS is. AHS would like to have a conversation about all the various efforts out there to market and promote the Land-Grant system (e.g., N-CFAR, CAST, North-Central project). They don't see any duplication of effort, but want to explore possibilities for coordination to ensure that everyone is on the same path and also to make sure there aren't any rouge groups. AHS doesn't want to take over any marketing efforts.
- No effort has been made yet to arrange for representatives from the various groups to present during this session.
- Arlen, Dan, and Eric discussed the idea of having only the COPS and AHS members in the room in order to have an honest and transparent discussion.
- CAST request was part of what precipitated this idea.
- Lee, Doug, and Jane will take the lead on this section. Lee will follow up with Doug and determine how best to move forward.

**2. Farm Bill update – Cornerstone**

- The speed has picked up on Farm Bill action. Senate recommendations will be released tomorrow. By Monday, amendments are due back to the committee. Mark-up will follow.
- Our CLP proposals are being treated fairly well. Process is looking good. Everything we are hoping to get is being incorporated.
- Recently announced another series of Farm Bill hearings, in Washington DC, to be held in April and May. There is no specific hearing on research. Members want to hear from constituents, not higher education.
- Still expect that there will be some form of restoration for specialty crops and organics. No details yet on how much.

**3. FY2013 Budget Status – Cornerstone**

- The Budget process began this week in both houses.
- Ag received a fairly generous allocation in the Senate. Ag will be marked up in the next couple of weeks by the Senate.
- Ag is not scheduled in the House until early June. They are going about a different process—less money to spend so allocations are tighter, but not likely to be treated disproportionately. A number of request letters from members have come in and this is helpful.

**4. Update on Crop Protection Program - Mike Harrington**

- IR-4 budget will stand alone. That leaves \$29 minus \$11.2 for the rest of crop protection. We are working towards an integrated plan, and IR-4 is included in that effort. If Special Research Grant authority is used, there will be a question of overhead costs for IR-4.
- Action needed? Important for the working group to continue to work with NIFA about what a consolidated program will look like. Neither house is likely to do what the President's budget requested. If other consolidation occurs, it is likely to be along the lines of what we've already proposed.

- The White Paper shows that about \$3 million is lost in consolidation. Why isn't that proportional across lines? Jim doesn't know why there was a reduction.
- For the Working Group, there are two important questions: 1) What should the administrative program (i.e., NIFA) look like and 2) What does the regional structure look like. Clear that a regional structure is highly preferred.
- Call tomorrow of the co-chairs, Frank Gale, Steve Slack, and Robin Shepard. A new white paper has been drafted, and a set of questions developed for each of the program areas to address. Anticipate that the questions will go out next week.

**5. Request from CAST for funding (\$150,000 per year to support their efforts) - Ian Maw**

- Through the policy board, a request for \$150K for CAST support has been made. Ian has requested a full budget, in order to have more information before a decision is made, but hasn't received it yet.
- The sentiment among the EDs was not positive and the Policy Board was surprised at the request.
- Lee followed up with the Agronomy Society. Soil & Crop has dropped out of CAST membership.
- It was recommended that the joint COPS discuss this in July. Lee will follow up with Doug, Mike and Jane about this as well.

**6. White Paper from the Southern Region Animal Sciences Department Heads - Eric Young**

- See attached
- Jim knows that a couple of animal ag groups are frustrated by the lack of funding from AFRI that goes towards animal agriculture research. They are interested in a matching fund (from industry) focused on animal science research. Discussions on how better to focus work on animal ag research, rather than "know-your-farmer-know-your-food." Cornerstone providing some quiet council to these groups.
- This same argument was used with specialty crops. The difference here is that the animal ag industry has specific check-offs.
- Directors in Eric's region felt that this was a broad and cross-functional problem, so this was sent to the ESCOP, ECOP chairs for discussion.
- A session on BMPs for sharing faculty, facilities, etc. has been proposed for the meeting in September. This would be of interest to the Directors in the other regions. The workshop will likely be focused on production animal agriculture as the programmatic focus. The Best Management Practices for sharing faculty, facilities, etc. could be applicable to other areas.
- A similar letter was circulated from Veterinary Medicine folks last year. Veterinary medicine/disease/etc. is an important aspect of the current concern.
- Lee cautioned about directing research toward only commodities; risk leaving out other important, basic research.

**7. Communications and Marketing Committee update- Jerry Arkin/Arlen Leholm**

- Making good progress, everyone is on board, with getting a scope of work, protocol for working together, and contract in place.
- Arlen and Robin Shepard were involved in developing the above.
- By this time next week will be sharing the protocol with the entire joint committee.

**8. Approve Steve and Barbara as PDB nominations**

- Steve is the incumbent (and eligible to hold this post again) and Barbara was the alternate.
- Steve Slack and Barbara Allen-Diaz were recommended to the Executive Committee for approval as ESCOP representatives to the PDB—approval to be handled electronically.

**9. Future Meetings**

- Joint COPs, Savannah GA: July 25 am ESCOP, July 25 pm joint COP session, July 26 am ESCOP/ECOP (this year will likely include all COPs)
- Experiment Station Section annual meeting: Portsmouth NH, Sept 24-26. Start with reception on Sept 24 evening, business meeting on morning of Sept 25, workshop remainder of time, and end with dinner on Sept 26
- APLU Annual Meeting: Denver CO, Nov 11-13. ESCOP typically meets on Monday pm, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>.
- CARET: Washington DC, Feb 24-27, 2013. ESCOP typically meets late Sunday pm (2/24).

## **CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS OF SOUTHERN ANIMAL SCIENCES CHAIRS**

### **SAC-2 Chairs' Group**

**February 1, 2012**

In addition to our responsibility to review the progress of Southern Region Multi-State projects, the SAC-2 group also serves in an advisory role to the Experiment Station Directors in the region. The last decade has presented a number of challenges to Land Grant institutions in the Southern Region that have the Animal Sciences chairs concerned about our ability to maintain teaching and research programs or to adequately serve our clientele in certain commodity groups. Year after year of budget cuts, retirements, inability to fill vacancies, loss of faculty positions, closing of facilities, and reallocation of resources have stretched our resources as never before. In addition, the reorganization and setting of new priorities within the USDA competitive grants program (AFRI) seems to have shifted funding away from production animal research, creating added concerns for young faculty trying to establish their research careers, as well as maintain those programs already established. For example, 6-10% of AFRI competitive grants were funded for animal production and health research. However, a minimum of 44% of U.S. farm gate income is from direct sale of animal products; a definite disparity.

With dwindling resources in most states, the need to partner with other Land Grant universities, other universities within our states, industry, or state agencies and organizations is becoming more important to sustain our missions. With the maintenance of, or increase in student enrollment in Animal Sciences coupled with decreases in faculty numbers or expertise, challenges exist in teaching the necessary courses for the major.

We would like to express our concerns as outlined above and enlist support in addressing the following:

1. The need to expand the AFRI funding for production animal research that is more in line with the impact of animal industries on the economy in the region and nationally.
2. Assist departments and faculty in addressing and/or removing barriers to collaboration in teaching or sharing courses among states.
3. The need to initiate, continue or enhance Extension collaborations among states.
4. The need to share research facilities and/or resources.
5. Provide appropriate training of professionals to address societal issues such as:
  - Global hunger
  - Ensuring a competitive, secure food supply
  - Environmental sustainability
  - Food safety
  - Nutrient management

We appreciate your consideration of these serious issues and welcome dialogue among states in the Southern Region.