

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Conference Call
April 24, 2012
NOTES

Participants:

Paula Geiger, Bret Hess, Carolyn Brooks, Karen Plaut, Ernie Minton, Jim Richards, Hunt Shipman
Bill Brown, Mike Harrington (serving as Chair today, in Steve Slack's absence)

- **Approval of March call minutes**
 - No corrections. Approved.
- **'13 Budget update (Cornerstone)**
 - Budget update hasn't changed much from the last call. House Ag is likely to mark up in early June; senate is Thursday (4/26), but has not been announced yet. House and Senate have released their subcommittee allocations. House allocation is \$19.405B or \$375M below FY12. Senate is \$20.785B which is \$1B more than FY12.
- **Farm Bill update (Cornerstone)**
 - Markup will be completed tomorrow in the Senate. Several commodity groups in the south have asked them to delay by a week or so. They feel they have been treated inequitably. Good news is that the draft of the legislation (which may change, but not substantially on the Research Title) has the vast majority of what we asked for. Research is now "Research, Extension, and Related Matters". Indirect cost adjustment wasn't included. Substantial amount of mandatory research funding included. Overall, \$430M in mandatory funding for research includes \$80M for organic, \$200M for specialty crops (for 5 years, \$400M for 10 years with \$50 million/yr. into baseline after year 5), \$100 million Beginning Farmer Rancher Program, 100 million Foundation for Food and Ag Research (\$100 M/year), .
 - Biomass research was not funded in the Senate version.
 - Specialty crops baseline is protected at \$%0 million/yr for years 6-10.
 - Foundation for Food and Ag Research is a foundation within the department, sets up a Advisory Board. Foundation will have \$100M in FY13, a one-time investment to set things up. Foundation will look at innovative RFPs to solve emerging issues and tie those back into NIFA. Proposals will require a 50% non-federal match. It's a new way to get money out and try and leverage on the front end.
 - The Specialty Crops Advisory Group is a new addition.
 - Foundational programs from FY12 were folded into FY13.
- **Crop Protection Program update (Mike Harrington)**
 - Working group of affected programs, stakeholders was created.
 - Questions and engagement of Working Group on hold until after the mark-up. Robin Shepard and Mike H. drafting a memo from the Co-Chairs that will go to the Working Group, Deans, and Directors. Will get back with the Working Group after the mark-up and begin planning for FY14 budget implementation.

- **Budget Priorities for FY14 and beyond**

- This committee, along with Science and Technology, has developed priorities for submission into the BAC process. In the past, surveys went out to get input. These typically generated “issues of the day” rather than budget or legislative priorities. Prior priorities were to 1) support capacity programs (Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, Evens-Allen, etc.) and 2) support increases in AFRI. Decided last year to put forth the top 2 priorities in each Challenge from the Science Roadmap. Sustainability and Water Quality/Quantity were seen as cross-cutting issues from the Science Roadmap.
- Haven’t asked Directors questions about more extensive budget priorities. Should we do this in anticipation of the ESS meeting?
 - This committee is trying to work at a broad scale, not advocating for specific programs. However, when Daryl Lund was co-Chair, the committee identified specific areas of research interest that was provided as input for AFRI. Some discussion that this was the purview of the Science and Tech Committee. Last S&T input was 2 years ago with very specific recommendations for AFRI on Plant Pathology.
 - This committee should maybe stop at the existing science roadmap priorities. Mike will send a link to previous surveys so the group can review questions that were asked.
- There was some discussion about the Livestock Research White Paper written by the Southern Region Animal Science Dept. Heads. The paper speaks to 1) declining state budgets (reduced faculty FTE, new faculty shifted to basic, less applied); 2) increases in student numbers (pre-vet) and the pressure that has put on Animal Science teaching (there have been no teaching FTE increases, so research has essentially been subsidizing teaching); and 3) disparity between plant-based vs. animal-based programs in AFRI compared to farm-gate value. Every animal science head was present at the recent meeting and everyone was saying the exact same thing relative to all three issues. Livestock industry accounts for \$164.6M (not including feed crops = \$68M) of U.S. agriculture or 57% of all agriculture impacts.
- Session on Animal Agriculture is being planned for the meeting in September. It will focus on BMPs for sharing facilities, faculty, etc. While outcomes might be transferable to other areas, this session will focus on production animal agriculture.

Science Roadmap: <http://escop.ncsu.edu/docs/scienceroadmap.pdf>

Next Meeting May 29, 2012, 4:00 EASTERN TIME. Call in number is: 970-491-2611.