**ESCOP Science & Technology  
Face-to-Face Meeting MINUTES**

Thursday, October 1, 2015 8 am to 12 noon  
The Ballantyne Hotel and Lodge, Charlotte, NC  
Meeting room: York

**Committee Members:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Chair:** Marikis Alvarez (ARD) | | | |  |  |  | | **Delegates:** |  |  | | Larry Curtis (WAAESD) | | | | David Thompson (WAAESD) | | | | Joe Colletti (NCRA) | | | | Deb Hamernik (NCRA) | | | | Cameron Faustman (NERA) | | | | Adel Shirmohammadi (NERA) | | | | Nathan McKinney (SAAESD) | | | | Harald Scherm (SAAESD) | | | | John Yang (ARD) Ed Buckner (ARD) Chair Elect ? (WAAESD) | | | |  | | | |  |  |  | | **Executive Vice-Chair** | | | | Jeff Jacobsen (NCRA ED) Chris Hamilton (NCRA AD; Recorder) | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Liaisons:** | | | | | Terry Nelsen (ERS) | | | | | Cliff Gabriel (OSTP) Adrianna Hewings (ARS) | | | | | Frank Zalom (Pest Mgmt Subcom) | | | | | Edwin Price (ICOP) | | | | | Scott Loveridge (Social Sci Subcom) | | | | | Parag Chitnis (NIFA) | | | | | Denise Eblen (NIFA) | | | | |  | | | | |  |  |  |  | |  | | | | |  | | | | |  | | | |   **\*Chair elect** |

**Agenda (use Ctrl+Click in Word to access hyperlinks below):**

1. [ESS S&T Guidelines and Approaches](#st_guidelines) (below)
2. [Riley Foundation Report](http://192.254.250.185/~swcs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Pursuing-a-Unifying-Message-A-University-Perspective-May-2015.pdf) (Unified Message)
3. [AGree Report](http://www.foodandagpolicy.org/sites/default/files/AGree_RII_2015_0.pdf) (Research & Innovation: Strengthening Agricultural Research)
4. [NRC Report](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/sustainability/animalscience/index.htm) (Animal Science related)
5. NIFA ([Centers of Excellence](http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/centers-excellence-implementation-nifa-competitive-grant-programs), [Commodity Boards](http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards))
6. Other Federal Agencies, Foundations and Related Entities Reports????
7. TOPICS
   1. Signature Programs (e.g. breeding)
   2. Water Security and related issues
   3. Listening Sessions
   4. Development of Crosscutting programs (Biomedical, Vet, Eng)
   5. Budget Initiatives
   6. Other

**Participants:** Cameron Faustman, Parag Chitnis (NIFA), Bob Holland (NIFA), Marikis Alvarez, Deb Hamernik, John Yang, Ed Buckner, Nathan McKinney, Adel Shirmohammadi, Jeanette Thurston (NIFA; jthurston@nifa.usda.gov), Jeff Jacobsen, Chris Hamilton

**Action Items:**

1. Keep monthly S&T calls on the third Monday of each month at 4 pm ET. Chris will send a reminder email with dates and call-in details.
2. Chris will work with Bob Holland and Parag Chitnis on an updated list of federal reps to the ESCOP S&T.
3. Committee approved the below S&T Guidelines and Approaches.
4. Jeff Jacobsen will verify with Wendy Wintersteen that the group is forming a working group and if so, let her know that ESCOP would like to be involved.
5. Jeff will create a document summarizing discussion points on the AGree Report for S&T review, and the data management and access concerns, to possibly take forward to ESCOP.

**Meeting Minutes:**

1. Roll Call and introductions
2. [ESS S&T Guidelines and Approaches](#st_guidelines) (below)
   1. OSTP member needs to be updated. Cliff Gabriel is no longer at OSTP. **Action: Chris will work with Bob Holland and Parag Chitnis on an updated list of federal reps.**
   2. **Action: Keep monthly S&T calls on the third Monday of each month at 4 pm ET. Chris will send a reminder email with dates and call-in details.**
   3. Discussion occurred regarding how S&T fits into ESS/ESCOP:
      1. Committee makes recommendations to ESCOP, which then charges others with the activity. For instance, S&T might recommend the creation of a multistate committee, working group and then ESCOP would charge an ED/director to begin the process.
      2. We might also recommend a political or programmatic stance on an issue or policy.
      3. We should also consider serving a proactive role in generating ideas on the next set of initiatives, rather than just being reactive as the committee historically has been.
   4. **Action: Committee approved the below S&T Guidelines and Approaches.**
3. [Riley Foundation Report](http://192.254.250.185/~swcs/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Pursuing-a-Unifying-Message-A-University-Perspective-May-2015.pdf) (Unified Message): Discussion ensured regarding whether we are actually speaking with a unified voice to both Congress and the private sector through Cornerstone and APLU and how we differentiate ourselves from what NIH and NSF do.
   1. Perhaps more industry support would also help.
   2. Consider all interagency funding opportunity RFAs. These are huge opportunities, above and beyond what AFRI might offer. Perhaps S&T could help disseminate this information, with help from NIFA.
   3. **Action: Jeff Jacobsen will verify with Wendy Wintersteen that the group is forming a working group and ESCOP would like to be involved (if they aren’t already).**
4. [AGree Report](http://www.foodandagpolicy.org/sites/default/files/AGree_RII_2015_0.pdf) (Research & Innovation: Strengthening Agricultural Research) Discussion:
   1. S&T generally agrees with the report, perhaps not so much regarding increased Congressional oversight through more hearings
   2. Data access discussion: No one really knows what their institutions will do yet and how this will pan out; we are all learning as we go. NIFA has no policy yet and will be having stakeholder sessions soon. NIFA has published their 3-year Implementation Plan. Paraq and Jeanette are the NIFA contacts for data access policy.
   3. Discussion also ensued regarding the newly proposed data NRSP for crops and livestock (National Ag Data Network, NADN). Is it too soon to propose an NRSP on this topic; would it be better to wait and see? Again, Janette and Parag are the contacts for NIFA comments on this NRSP. **Action: Jeff will check with Eric Young regarding how to best handle a NIFA peer review of this developing NRSP.**
   4. We recommend taking these concerns back to our regions and making associated recommendations to the NRSP-RC before they formalize their recommendations to ESCOP.
   5. **Action: Jeff will create a document summarizing discussion points on the AGree Report for S&T review, including data management and access concerns, to possibly take forward to ESCOP.**
5. [NRC Report](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/sustainability/animalscience/index.htm) (Animal Science related) Discussion: Included discussion of how capacity funds are handled differently across institutions, should these funds be part of the data management plan requirement, and possible increased reporting burdens with data management plans.
6. NIFA Commodity Board (Parag Chitinis presented) Discussion:
   1. “The 2014 Farm Bill allows eligible national and state commodity boards to propose topics for research that they are willing to equally co-fund with NIFA.” There will be 2016 RFAs and the quality of proposals will determine funding. See <http://nifa.usda.gov/commodity-boards> for eligibility.
   2. NIFA will give an update on how funds are handled and more details on program management at a future meeting (regional spring meetings?), after the RFAs come out.
7. NIFA [Centers of Excellence](http://nifa.usda.gov/resource/centers-excellence-implementation-nifa-competitive-grant-programs) (Parag Chitnis presented) Discussion:
   1. Entities qualified as Centers of Excellence have funding priority over others when all else is equal.
   2. Eligibility application is included as part of the proposal.
   3. This designation is included in the award communication, if entity meets the criteria.
   4. Designation tied only to individual award, does not carry over. Entities must apply for designation with each proposal.
   5. NIFA is currently collecting data on how this policy impacts smaller institutions, junior scientists, etc. for minimum intended negative impact.
8. Closing comments: Marikis and Jeff thanked everyone for attending, with special consideration to Parag, Jeanette, and Bob for attending and participating with the S&T. Send any other topics of interest to Jeff/Chris for future discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:33 am ET.

**Experiment** **Station Section**

**Science and Technology Committee**

**Operating Guidelines**

**August 19, 2015**

**Purpose**

The ESCOP Science and Technology (S&T) Committee is charged with promoting and enhancing science and technology in the Land-grant university system. The committee will assist ESCOP to identify future directions and anticipate and respond to research needs and opportunities for funding. The committee will assist in linking science and technology programs to multistate and national research initiatives. The committee will recommend how ESCOP will respond to reports, recommendations, and planning documents from the national science community. This committee will provide guidance to ESCOP strategic planning and priority setting.

**Membership**

* Chair from one of the five SAES/ARD regions
* Two representatives from each of the five SAES/ARD regions
  + Incoming Chair
* One ED (non-voting) to serve as executive Vice-Chair and to assist the Chair
* Non-voting representatives from the following organizations:
  + NIFA
  + ARS
  + ERS
  + Chair of the Social Science Subcommittee
  + ESCOP Co-Chair of the Pest Management Strategies Subcommittee
  + Other organizations including OSTP, other COPS and other federal agencies as appropriate (i.e., NASA, EPA, DOE)

Members serve four year terms and may be reappointed indefinitely. The term of Chair, Incoming Chair and Past Chair are for two years each.

**Organization and Function**

The S&T may meet in person once a year associated with the Fall ESS Meeting and Workshop or as the need arises. Other in-person meetings can be scheduled by the Chair as necessary. The S&T will meet by teleconference monthly to quarterly for S&T work plan updates, coordination, issue or problem solving, selecting the ESS National Excellence in Multistate Research Award winner and associated business. Meeting agendas and support materials will be provided, after consultation with the Chair, to the S&T Committee in advance of the teleconference or in-person meetings. Minutes will be taken from each teleconference, approved at the next S&T meeting and posted on the ESCOP website.

Annually, during late May and early June, the S&T will receive and evaluate the regional nominations for the ESS National Excellence in Multistate Research Award. The S&T Committee will individually rank the nominees and a summary will be provided to the Chair for teleconference discussions to select the top Multistate project. This recommendation is provided to ESCOP for their evaluation and ratification. The S&T will announce the winner to ESS membership and APLU before the end of June.

It is expected that programmatic and policy decisions are to be made by consensus. If necessary, formal decisions are to be determined by simple majority of a quorum of S&T members.

The S&T may create ad hoc work groups to assist with special tasks or problem solving, as needs are addressed by ESCOP. The work groups will be responsible to the S&T.

**Officers**

The Chair of the S&T will be a member of one of the five SAES/ARD regions. The Chair serves for two years. The position will rotate among the sections in same order as the ESCOP Chair (NC, S, ARD, W, NE).

The incoming Chair will discharge the duties of the Chair, such as presiding over meetings when the Chair is not available and guide the work of the S&T. The Regional Office may also facilitate the meetings as the need arises.

**Quorum**

For purposes of doing business, a quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the duly constituted members at any officially called meeting for which written notice is sent in advance of the meeting. A simple majority of the quorum resolves all issues.

**Parliamentary Authority**

The emphasis in all S&T meetings shall be on orderly process to achieve an objective decision by those present and voting. Should there be a parliamentary challenge, it shall be answered by referring to the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

**Amendments**

These operating guidelines may be amended at any business meeting of the S&T provided the proposed amendment has been sent to all members in advance of the meeting, and the question is passed by a simple majority of a quorum of the voting members present at that meeting.