

ESCOP CAC Meeting Notes
Thursday, June 16, 2016, 4:00 PM
Shirley Hymon-Parker, ESCOP Chair Presiding

Participants: Bret Hess, Carolyn Brooks, Clarence Watson, Gary Thompson, Jeff Jacobsen, Jeremy Witte, Michael Harrington, Bob Shulstad, Rick Rhodes, Dan Rossi, and Shirley Hymon-Parker

Action Items from Meeting:

1. Bret, Mike and Jeff will get the EDs summarized information of what they have heard on the webinars about NIFA's process for approving the purchase of equipment with capacity funds. The EDs will share this information with their directors for their feedback.
2. Mike will send out a reminder about completing the Farm Bill Survey
3. Carolyn will add the following items on the ESCOP agenda: changes for rules of operation concerning the ESS budgeting process and the budget that is to be proposed; updates from the Sightlines Deferred Maintenance Committee, the status of NIFA requirements for 'Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research'; and the update on surveys to be sent to ESS and CES as a part of the evaluation of capacity programs
4. The EDs are asked to send out the current BAA PBD's POW, request input from their directors, and Eric will serve as the point of contact to send and merge all of the returned responses for Clarence.

Interim Actions of the chair:

- ESCOP Chair (Shirley) and ECOP Chair (Michelle) met with and made a presentation to NIFA NPLs, staff and administrators on May 3, 2016 at the Waterfront Center in their roles for the *ECOP- ESCOP Chairs' Alliance*
- Letters were sent to congratulate the 2016 ESS Excellence in Leadership Award winners and respective supervisors were notified and invited to participate in the award ceremony
- Certification form was sent to Eddie Gouge indicating that the ESS candidates for the PBD are Clarence Watson and Gary Thompson based on the results of the vote of the ESCOP Exec. Committee

The CAC approved the letter to be sent under the ESCOP and ECOP Chairs' signatures urging movement to replace Marty Draper who is leaving NIFA and who had demonstrated a strong commitment to collaboration related to IPM and NDPN. It was recommended that contact emails be included in the letter in case NIFA wanted to respond to the email. (*Update: response already received from Sonny saying the position is important to them and they are moving now to fill the position.*)

Reports

1. *Federal Budget Update – Jeremy Witte*

The Senate appropriations Committee approved the FY 2017 appropriations bill which was not much different from that of the House. AFRI was increased to a total of \$375M, The Crop Protection/Pest

Management (CPPM) funding line was given a \$2.8 million increase and Bill language addressing the prohibitive indirect cost requirement was removed in both the House and Senate versions of the Bill. The next movement on the budget will probably be a CR in September.

2. Policy Board of Director's Report – Clarence Watson

The BAA PBD's POW was to be in effect from 2011-2016. At the next PDB's meeting, they would like to move on the next 5-year POW and would like input from the System in developing it. The EDs are asked to send out the current POW (the one that is the final version as the copy we received was marked as the draft version), request input from their directors, and Eric will serve as the point of contact to receive and merge all of the returned responses. Deadline to do so must be early enough so Clarence will be prepared to give a report from ESCOP.

3. Budget and Legislative Committee - Gary Thompson and Mike Harrington

Gary and Bill Brown are working together for a smooth transition as Bill will be the next chair of the B&LC. Mike will send out a reminder to be sent to all five regions requesting the completion/submission of the survey developed for input related to the content of the next Farm Bill. Deadline is July 1st to receive the surveys and Vernie Hubert will receive the results thereafter.

4 Communications and Marketing Committee – Rick Rhodes and Dan Rossi

The CMC met by teleconference on June 7th. The committee is implementing its POW. The one page CMC executive summary of the global executive summary has been released. Although *Ag is America* has about 22,500 followers, faculty and staff are asked to help get that number increased. Another goal is to increase website subscribers, which now number 101. A roadmap, that includes a snapshot of how far we have come, is being developed. Rick thanked the soon-to-be-retired Dan Rossi for his dedicated and competent work with the CMC. Shirley congratulated Rick on his appointment to replace Dan as the next ED for the Northeast.

5 Science and Technology Committee – Jeff Jacobsen

Jeff indicated that it appears the ESCOP Executive Committee will support the vote of the S&TC for the multistate research award application from the South –S1060. This is the 8th year to confer this award and Jeff will follow up in getting the 2016 winners engraved on the plaque at the Waterfront Center. A subcommittee of the S&TC will thoroughly review the 2017 Call for Nominations and make recommendations to improve the application and review process. This will also be reviewed by the EDs and all recommended changes will be provided to ESCOP for approval. Mike noted that reviewers made comments relating to strength of external funding in their evaluations and that should not have been considered in the evaluation process as receipt of external funding was not one of the evaluation criteria. So this will be addressed as the process for next year is assessed again. The NIPM Coordinating Committee will have a fly-in meeting in August and a longer meeting Oct. 18-19th. The issues of concern about the 2015 awards ceremony at the annual APLU meeting will be corrected this year.

6 ESS Budget vote/language – Bob Shulstad and Jeff Jacobsen

In preparation for the vote for an ESS budget during the ESS business meeting in September, the budget proposal language will have to be reviewed and voted upon to change the Rules of Operation. In addition, a formal ESS budget would then need to be presented following this vote for ESS review and

approval. This item should be discussed more at the ESCOP meeting held during the Joint COPs meeting in July.

7 NIMSS update and Diversity Task Force Update – Jeff Jacobsen

NIMSS – As new functions related to the final edits and approval of projects are now being used for NIMSS, there have been a few glitches, but nothing major. The Diversity Task Force report will be provided as a part of the meeting’s agenda briefs for the ESCOP meeting in July. Several from the Task Force will be in attendance to report out as this is also a 30 minute agenda item. Related recommendations for the ESS budget could be proposed.

8. Updates on ESS - NEDA Meeting- Bret Hess

Getting logistics in place relating to session moderators and speakers is coming together. It is recommended that hotel reservations be made by phone. The host hotel will either have rooms that may have been freed up recently or can assist you with registering at the overflow hotel. There are 107 registrants so far and 10 companion registrations. Shuttle service/rental cars and park entrance fees were reviewed.

Other:

Webinars are being presented by NIFA relating to the developing the prior approval process for equipment to be purchased on capacity funds. One recommendation is that the equipment purchase requests from campuses could be sent in batches. This new approval process will take effect for FY2017. The submissions will be through Brenda Barnett’s office. The ESS as a body has not been sufficiently engaged. Thus Bret, Mike and Jeff will get the EDs summarized information of what they have heard on the webinars with the intent that the EDs will share this information with their directors for their feedback. The collected feedback will be synthesized and sent back as ESS input to NIFA.

Other on-going projects that require ESS involvement include ‘Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research’ and the surveys to be conducted relating to NIFA’s task to evaluate capacity programs. Updates concerning these should be placed on the ESCOP July meeting agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM. Notes Submitted by Carolyn Brooks.