

**ESCOP CAC Call**  
**February 23, 2017**  
**Monthly Conference Call**  
**MINUTES**

**Welcome and roll call – Bret Hess and Mike Harrington**

Bret Hess  
Gary Thompson  
Shirley Hymon-Parker  
Mike Harrington  
Jeff Jacobsen  
Jim Richards  
Hunt Shipman  
Alton Thompson  
Marikas Alvarez  
Clarence Watson  
Rick Rhoades

**Approve agenda and minutes – Bret Hess**

Agenda as presented and minutes distributed were unanimously approved.

**Upcoming ESCOP meeting – Bret Hess**

- Bret Hess gave an overview of the ESCOP agenda. See attached.
- There was some discussion of mergers and their impact on the system. This will be added to the ESCOP agenda.
- Nearly everyone completed the diversity pre-meeting assessments.

**AGree Farm Bill session – Mike Harrington**

Mike Harrington attended a recent AGree Farm Bill session in DC. There was a panel of speakers who discussed their perspective on upcoming Farm Bill issues. Our contribution was on the need for infrastructure and capacity and grants funding. Bret will be meeting with their ED soon and will have an opportunity to reinforce our position on these and some other issues.

**Website – Eric Young/Jeff Jacobsen**

Website has now moved to Clemson and can be found at [www.escop.info](http://www.escop.info) . The old URL at NCState has a redirect. Donna Peirce has been cataloging the old site to determine what from the old site should move over, what is still relevant, etc. Eric, Jeff, and Rick and their staff met with Clemson to discuss navigation and layout. Examples are part of the agenda brief for the upcoming ESCOP meeting. There was some discussion about the URL and

**Fall ESS meeting – Gary Thompson**

Theme: “Question of Balance”

This was selected because folks are constantly balancing things and a number of those topics will be discussed.

Monday, Sept. 25-27<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt in Philadelphia. The planning committee has had several phone calls to get organized. First goal is to identify workshops: Balance of research and teaching (rigor, expectations, T&T), diversity and inclusion (balance between requirements and mindset); alternative funding sources (traditional vs. new, applied vs. fundamental, etc.), data management. The committee will meet during CARET/AHS to further refine these ideas.

EDs have been asked to poll regions regarding attendance estimates.

#### **Cornerstone update – Jim Richards & Hunt Shipman**

- The BAC approved the “one ask” approach on Tuesday. The logistics of that are still being worked out to polish the 1-page summary. The “common name” for this effort is not as big a deal as what we DON’T call it (i.e., one line). One Ask/Request, Unified Ask/Request are all good options.
- Current CR ends April 8<sup>th</sup>. The current chairman wants discussions complete by March 1. There will likely be some kind of combination of appropriations bills released after that. It’s unclear what will contain the Farm Bill, if any. It is a positive development that the discussion is about bills, now (vs. more CRs later).
- For FY18: President’s staff will be releasing a budget outline mid-March. This is earlier than expected and a good sign. Some agency budget meetings have already started for the less-controversial items.

#### **BAC report and NIFA topline request – Bill Brown**

Everyone should have received the memo regarding the BAC approved action on Tuesday. Here is the motion that was approved:

*The BAA Policy Board of Directors accepts, amends, and approves the recommendation from the BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee as following: (1) a “single ask” request for Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations as proposed in Option A for a \$200-million increase; (2) further study and consideration of adjusting the proportional distribution of funds in Fiscal Year 2019 as recommended by the 1890 institutions; and, (3) adopted the suggested Fiscal Year 2018 One-Pager APLU request with added emphasis of support for increased funding for additional programs including Academic Programs.*

Issues with 1890s making the match was not discussed during the BAC meeting. This is an issue for several schools.

#### **Chair visits in DC – Bret Hess**

Following the Ag Outlook Forum, Bret and Fred Schlutt will be visiting several agencies in USDA and beyond to provide an overview of the ESCOP and ECOP initiatives and priorities. They will also discuss opportunities to collaborate and improve communication.

