

ESS Chair's Advisory Committee Call Notes

January 18, 2018, 4:00pm EST

1. Welcome – Gary Thompson
2. Roll Call – Rick Rhodes
 - Gary Thompson, Bret Hess, Laura Lavine, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz, Jeff Jacobsen, Eric Young, Mike Harrington, Dennis Calvin, Fred Servello, Sarah Lupis, Alton Thompson, Hunt Shipman, Vernie Hubert
3. Approval of CAC call notes from October 19, 2017
 - Notes approved unanimously
4. Chair's Interim Actions – Gary Thompson
 - NIFA Listening Session – Joint ECOP-ESCOP letter (Gary Thompson + Chuck Hibberd)
 - Review of ESS/ESCOP Executive Committee business meeting, November 2017 (in conjunction with annual APLU meeting)
 - Academic Programs (APS) + ESS Session (David Shintani, APS Chair and Tracy Hoover, APS Incoming Chair)
 - Workshop and Business meeting at APLU – an initial conversation
 - Goals of ESS and CES are aligned, groups are familiar with each other
 - Goals of ESS/CES and APS are different, common ground not identified
 - Saied Mostaghimi and Susan Sumner, Virginia Tech – interactions between research and academic programs, faculty mentoring program, undergraduate research fellowships
 - Patreese Ingram, Penn State along with Gary and Tracy spoke and identified area of common interest
 - Graduate education and research is a natural fit
 - Entrepreneurship programs, Research commercialization
 - Exploring a joint APS-ESS program for Joint COPs
 - International Ag Programs (Amrit Bart, Georgia, ICOP Chair)
 - ICOP is working on a strategic plan
 - All institutions have research interests internationally
 - Enhancement of Curriculum, Research, Outreach is priority
 - Suggestion to involve Otto Gonzalez, NIFA in ESCOP-ICOP discussion
 - NC-FAR testimony
 - How capacity and competitive funds leverage one another
 - Discussed the “One Ask”
 - NC-FAR, SoAR leadership in attendance
 - Focused on competitive research, interest in what stations' total funding packages look like
 - Commodity representatives value the work of LGUs; value ascribed to Rick and Gary attending the NC-FAR meeting
 - APLU New Administrators' Orientation
 - Rick and Gary in attendance, met with new Directors to discuss involvement in local / regional / national level activities
5. BAC update (Strategic Re-alignment) – Rick Rhodes
 - The “One Ask” called for six areas of strategic investment, including AFRI and Hatch

- We are reviewing the NIFA discretionary budget and identifying priority areas
- Strategic realignment of all lines in the budget and a reduction of total number of lines
- Currently 45 priority areas, we need to narrow those down
- Proposal to reduce 45 priority areas into ~7 lines
- How do we consolidate in an environment of advocates / professional groups for each of the 45 lines?
- Identify who the major line advocates are, a timeframe, and engage those folks with the plan for consolidation
- Would consolidation cause lines to be lost? Can we rely on NIFA to protect the lines?
- “Functional Equivalency” in realignment – can programs retain function and integrity?
- Gary can gather recommendations from the BAC and ESCOP B&L Committee
- As we go into advocacy for the Farm Bill, we don’t want to move in two separate directions

6. Committees and Updates

- Cornerstone Update – Hunt Shipman
 - Current CR expires 1/19/2018 at midnight
 - Talks underway all week with varying degrees of positivity
 - Passing the CR would extend through 2/16/2018
 - House scheduled to be out of session next week, Senate considering a weekend session
 - Farm Bill proposal closely guarded and currently being scored
 - BREAKING: President has called a meeting with the Freedom Caucus, they are working out a deal on the CR to avoid a shutdown
- Science and Technology – Laura Lavine, Jeff Jacobsen
 - Working on Science Roadmap, moving away from old format, toward a shorter, briefer, more cogent roadmap
 - After the next SciTech call, the ESCOP Leadership will be engaged on the roadmap
- Budget and Legislative – Bill Brown, Mike Harrington
 - No movement on strategic realignment, call coming up next Tuesday
- Impact Database – Bill Brown, Eric Young
 - Scott Cummings (TAMU) migrating database to a new front-end platform
 - Analytics will be gathered on the website
 - Quality Control is being discussed
 - Exploring training for inputters
 - Review process is being explored – submissions would be forwarded to reviewers and with two affirmative reviews, would be displayed on the website
- Diversity Catalyst – Karen Plaut, Jeff Jacobsen
 - National ESS Diversity and Inclusion award document is ready for release
 - Budget to include: 1.) Travel for the award winner to ESS/SAES/ARD meeting, 2.) Award/Plaque, 3.) \$1,000 Cash award
- Communications and Marketing – Bev Durgan, Rick Rhodes
 - CMC meets in January (Zoom) and March (face to face)
 - Proposal to reposition CMC as a standing committee of the BAA
 - May want to ask the Policy Board for an update on the repositioning of the committee
- ESCOP Website – David Leibovitz
 - Analytics on the website are being collected
 - October 2017 – January 2018: 2,200 page visits from 47 states

7. Call adjourned at 5:08pm EST