

ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee
Monthly Conference Call
February 27, 2018

Participants:

Bill Brown	Sarah Lupis
Ernie Minton	Paula Geiger
Dave Benfield	Josh Stull
Alton Thompson	Ian Maw
George Hopper	Becky Walth
Sabine O'Hara	Vernie Hubert
Glenda Humiston	Maggie Earl
Mike Harrington	Rick Rhodes

- **Approval of January 23 Call Notes:** Notes were unanimously approved.
- **BAC Update:** Orlando McMeans is working with the BAC on this. The One Ask number (\$200 Million) is the same as last year. Most people will not use the Cornerstone document directly, but will instead use their own and incorporate the One Ask number. Cornerstone has sent the document out for print and will distribute it at AHS/CARET.
- **DC update, Budget and Farm Bill:** House has language on most titles. They are going back and forth with CBO getting cost estimates. They are still considering new proposals and will do so until mark up if they will bring votes. They are still saying that they'd like to do something by the end of March; as soon as leadership gives them time on the floor, they will likely schedule mark-up the week before.

There is a proposal ~~in the Farm Bill~~ that would change the IDC rate to 10% from 30% in the President's budget request. This has no support from Congress and staffers. Tara Weaver Messick is on detail from ARS providing leadership support in Communications after the retirement of Virginia Bueno; Kelly Sprute (him, his) is now handling our weekly Stakeholder Update. Mike requested additional information on the IDC proposal.

There is also an APLU search for an institution to lead an antibiotic resistance institute. Pew Charitable Trust and Sally Rocky's foundation are also involved. Cathy Wotecki is chairing a proposal review committee. Deadline for proposals is beginning of April. The idea is that the selected institution will up front staff (researchers and administration) and also help raise additional research funds from stakeholders, USDA, industry, and others.

- **Time and Effort:** The process for this guidance started nearly 2 years ago. The Council on Government Relations made comments back to NIFA. Mike also made comments related to

federal funds being used for grant writing and number of hours per week for non-hourly employees. Reporting frequency is NOT prescribed. Instead, institutions must have processes in place that would be supported in an audit according to the Uniform Guidance. COGR wants a consistent set of reporting guidelines across all federal agencies. NIFA and COGR may share a joint panel at NERAOC.

- **Strategic Realignment Effort:** A committee has been established and a letter has gone out to invited members. The Administrative Heads will be briefed next week and there will be follow-up with the broader BAA after that. The Chair Has not been selected Mike has developed background materials providing funding history for all lines in the NIFA budget.
- **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 5 breakfast meeting 6:45 am discussion of work products for 2018: Bill reviewed the plan for the breakfast meeting. It will take place in the same room as the ESCOP meeting.
- **Other:** Ian shared that Sonny will be leaving his position in early May. They are looking for appropriate candidates to fill the position. A name for the Undersecretary has been submitted to the White House.