

ESCOP CAC Teleconference Minutes
Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 4 pm ET

To join: Web/mobile <https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/833707066>

Phone: 1 929 205 6099 or +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 833 707 066

<http://escop.info/committee/cac/>

Participants: George Hopper, Chair, Moese Kairo, Deb Hamernik, Doug Buhler, Jody Jellison, Steve Loring, Jim Richards, Maggie Earle, Bernie Hubert, Chris Hamilton, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz, Bret Hess, Doug Steele, Donna Pearce (recorder)

Call notes:

1. Welcome and roll call – George/Donna
2. Approval of today's agenda – George
 - Approved with no additions
3. CMC Status with CES & AHS – Steve Loring
 - Received word all three sections (CES, AES, and Administrative Heads) have voted and approved the proposal going forward with having an outside individual or group do a strategic communication & marketing plan for the LGU system
 - CMC will move forward and work with APLU and Doug Steele's office to implement it.
 - At our face-to-face meeting at APLU November 10, we will discuss how we can best support this effort, what we will do to be active participants, and how we can facilitate communicating information to the system. We want to be sure everyone knows what is going on and have a chance for input on items such as the plan of work and recommendations for the Ag is America website and social media platforms.
 - We will look at our operating guidelines to see how they might be revised pending any suggestions or recommendations from the strategist.
 - Steve thanked everyone who has been involved up to now for their assistance, help, and input
4. Draft agenda for November ESCOP Exec Meeting – George
 - Add APLU update by Doug Steele to agenda
5. APLU update – Doug Steele
 - Met with Eddie and Suzette to go through agendas for all the meetings at the annual conference. If ESCOP wants to meet with Cornerstone, or me, we will do our best to honor all requests.
 - Met with Cornerstone last week and their highest time priority is to in front of BAA for the section meeting and to spend time with Budget and Advocacy Committee, Legislation and Policy Committee, and Administrative Heads Section
 - My goal is to make it to every section meeting and interact as much as possible
 - Actively recruiting for the New Deans and Administrative Orientation that will take place in DC December 10-12
 - Final stages of completing a shared position with International Ag Programs, BAA/Policy Board, and Council of Government Affairs within APLU. Position will focus on International and Domestic Agriculture Advocacy. This person will on issues outside the Cornerstone contract scope, particularly with USDA, to look at generating more capacity

funds, as well as other funding sources we haven't approached in the past, ie. DOD and CDC. If this position is hired in time, they will be at APLU to start interactions, if not, we'll work with our leadership within BAA, including our section chairs to think about what opportunities for interactions with the system

- Had our first Gene Editing conference. We are getting ready to send out a call for nominations to serve on a Gene Editing Task Force. Probability will be ready for the annual meeting and announced at the meeting. We hope research faculty members on the animal and livestock side will have interest in being nominated to serve on the task force.
- Hope to do something like the AMR initiative has done for Antimicrobial resistance around animal gene editing. We're very fortunate to have Noelle Cockett, President of Utah State, to lead the initiative and effort for us.

6. Cornerstone report – Hunt or Jim

- In limbo with the appropriations process with a continuing resolution to November 21
- House and Senate are starting to negotiate top line so they can get conference budget allocations. They need to agree on a top line number and then agree on how to break it down among the twelve subcommittees. No real progress. House has one idea and Senate has another.
- Still potential to bring some budget bills to the floor as soon as next week
- There's hope we'll have a break through by November 21 that would allow us to get something done by Christmas. There may be another continuing resolution, but the question is will it just go through Christmas or extend into next year.

7. Other Committee updates since ESS meeting

a. B&L – Doug Steele

- Excellent meeting in Nashville. Had a joint meeting with ESCOP and ECOP Budget and Legislative Committees. We're trying to find common ground on how to move things forward
- We need both Budget and Legislative Committees to inform the work of the Committee on Legislation and Policy and Budget and Advocacy Committee
- APLU meeting with all sections is to try to formulate at least a beginning draft Budget and Advocacy committee for initiatives for 2021. Possible to have a 2020 budget by the annual meeting.
- Senate and House are negotiating on the top line. One area where we've not done a good job is identifying a process to move quickly to establish priority areas. Priority areas could be anything from initiatives, such as America Grows Urban bill to strategies for increasing capacity or specific. We do not want definite answers, but want to identify in advance processes to help us move forward. Something with which the Budget and Legislation Committee can help.
- Looking forward thinking about the process of identifying potential requests for 2022 Farm Bill. It will take about year to get organized and be ready to move quickly on that and see what type of opportunities are possible.
- Asked both ESCOP and ECOP Budget and Legislative Committees to help us understand how to leverage capacity funds at state and local levels.
- Talking about what future budget process looks like so Budget and Legislative Committees can think about timing of when they meet and make decisions

b. S&T – Jody/Brett

- Met in Nashville with all regions represented

- Discussed possibility of looking into the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine report Science Breakthrough 2030. Suggestion was made we might want to respond to the report and use it as a starting point for prioritizing areas where we have, or need, active multistate projects.
- We might want to think about helping to initiate multistate research projects in priority areas that we do not already have activity.
- Discussed response to OSTP's request for input on priorities sent out for regions or institutions to respond.
- c. DCC – Ali/Rick
 - Committee has not met since report at ESS. Next teleconference will be sometime next quarter
- d. NRSP-RC – Doug/Jeff
 - Have two renewals coming up.
 - Jeff is working on some issues with NIFA's allocation of off-the-top MRF funding
- e. PBD – Gary
 - No report
- 8. Other items, as needed
 - NIFA move – Doug Buhler
 - Trying to get a SCRI Grant and subcontracts done with a 6 month delay in the financial review and the need to set up hardship accounts is becoming a real concern since the move
 - Doug Steele asked the Budget and Advocacy Committee for any individual or states to share examples of these problems with him and he is keeping a running list to share with Dr. Angle. One of his primary contacts will be Josh Staal. Josh was in charge of Government Relations now taking on the role of Interim Communications Director.
 - At Nashville meeting Dr. Angle mention their priorities will be influenced by who has the loudest voice and biggest problem right now
 - Share with, or copy Doug, on problems across the system to give a better idea of the scope of what is taking place across all areas, particularly specific to competitive grants
 - Where we are with the mandatory match for SCRI? – Jody Jellison
 - If current continuing resolution results in another continuing resolution, the goal is to keep the waiver language in so when final budget passes it will be in there also
 - Vernie - right now the CR has language that says the Secretary may waive the matching requirement
 - Everyone is expecting the CR to be kicked forward when that happens, they'll just strike the date November 22 and put in the new date. Therefore, the waiver language will be included in whatever CR moves forward.
 - Trying to get a deal on some of the appropriations bill and take them out of the CR cycle. One of those appropriations bill is the Agricultural Bill
 - Don't expect it to be in the Senate agriculture appropriation bill that moves forward. However, it's in the House Bill and the CR which gives the Secretary ability to waive it and there's an agreement now among the powers to be on the House and Senate side. Whatever comes out will include it.
 - Redirecting Experiment Stations Resources - Brett Hess

- Discussion at the Western Region's Administrative Officers meeting about redirecting experiment stations resources by moving ARS personnel into other colleges.
- Is there anything we might be able to do on behalf of these institutions? Maybe we could send a note out that reminds the institutions the funds are appropriated to the institutions for experiment station functions and should be used for those functions only.
- USDA should comment on that question, not the BAA Sections or APLU

Adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Recent ESCOP Appointments (since ESS meeting):

- Hongwei Xin (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), ESCOP representative to NC-FAR

Upcoming Meetings:

- ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting, during APLU Annual Conference, November 11, 2019, Hilton Bayfront, San Diego, CA.