

2021 ESCOP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2021 (1:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET)

[Link to agenda and supportive documentation](#)

Attendance: Bret Hess, Chris Pritsos, Bernie Engle, Rick Rhodes, Alton Thompson, David Leibovitz, Glenda Humiston, Jeff Jacobsen, JF Meullenet, Cindy Morley, George Smith, Gary Thompson, Laverne Hubert, Maggie Earle, Steven Loring, Christina Hamilton, Caroline Henney, Matt Wilson, Bev Durgon, Mark McGuire, Parag Chitnis, Saied Mostaghimi, Doug Steele, Hunt Shipman, Katie Frazier, Caron Gala, Jennifer Tippetts (recording secretary)

1. Call to Order: Chris called the meeting to order.

1.1. Approval of Agenda- Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

1.2. Approval of Minutes (October 27, 2020)- Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.

1.3. Interim Actions (*page 14 in hyperlink above*)

- Approved addition of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy referenced in the stakeholder support letter to Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi supporting \$7.75 billion dollars in Research, Innovation, and Facilities Funding in the Build Back Better Package.
- Marty Draper, Kansas State University, was appointed to represent ESS on the Budget and Legislative Committee; (3) Shawn Donkin, Oregon State University, was appointed to represent ESS on the Budget and Legislative Committee; (4) Sreekala Bajwa, Montana State University, was appointed to represent ESS on the Budget and Legislative Committee.

1.4. ESCOP Priorities and Chair Initiatives (*page 15 in hyperlink above & [link to presentation](#)*)- Chris will work with the EDs and the various ESS committees to develop metrics to operationalize these priorities and initiatives. Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the ESCOP priorities and chair's initiatives were approved as presented.

2. Cornerstone Advocacy Update and Path Forward– ([link to presentation](#))

- House appropriations – FY22 passed entire house with increases in all priority lines.
- Senate appropriations – increased most lines except 1890 flat research and extension – tactical move because of Chairman Bishop's emphasis on 1890s.
- Infrastructure – passed last Friday – President to sign into law next week.
 - \$1.2T Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Roads Bridges Broadband Rail Water etc
- Build Back Better (BBB) take up second bill no later than the week of Nov 15.
 - Research infrastructure in BBB
 - Reconciliation \$1.7 T BBB Act
 - Expect CBO to score the bill
 - Key ag issues – production and conservation – research funding available...(topics and dollars were itemized on a slide)
 - \$210M AFRI and same for FFAR, \$120M SARE, \$100M 1890 scholarships, Extension
 - \$1B for MSI infrastructure under Research Facilities Act – concern by 1862s

- Expect 1 more Continuing Resolution with possible year-long CR.
 - Current CR expires Dec 3
 - Debt Ceiling extension expires Dec 3
 - Annual Appropriations and BBB interrelationships for future funding appropriations.
 - Many lines in the bills are normally funded through annual appropriations
 - Possible programs receive significant increases in funding that extend over years
 - Appropriators may not use discretionary dollars since mandatory funding in BBB
 - Mindful of this potential issue
 - Group discussed what could be sent with certainty.
- 3. BLC 2022 Plan** (*page 17 in hyperlink above*)
- Page two is compressive of the request to BAA.
 - One edit reflected in document is climate smart agriculture has been updated to climate smart agriculture and forestry.
 - It was noted that BLC is working further in advance and generating multi-year plans, and including stakeholders. This new plan will be a great addition for the farm bill.
 - Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the BLC plan was approved as presented.
- 4. ESS Finance Committee 2022 Plan** (*page 19 in hyperlink above*)
- 13 months ago, funds were invested based on a variety of variables, now the money is generating interest.
 - Complete notes are posted on BLC website.
- 5. CMC 2022 Plan**
- Communications and marketing effort underwent strategic planning to generate a roadmap for communications.
 - Successfully added position to APLU, and assisted with hiring. Andrea Putman, Assistant Vice President, Communications and External Partnerships, Food, Agriculture & Natural Resources (FANR) is charged with the implementation of roadmap.
 - Board moved request forward to establish CMC as standing committee and updated rules of operation.
 - The next step is to receive approval of entire BAA, done by electronic vote. Need a 2/3 super majority of all voting members to pass. A non-vote counts as a no vote.
- 6. NIDB 2022 Plan**
- In a holding pattern, pending vote to make CMC a standing committee.
- 7. BAA Policy Board of Directors 2022 Plan** (*page 20 in hyperlink above*)
- Recommended moving CMC forward for a vote on BAA standing committee status.
 - Advocacy RFP committee released a report with recommendations. Should hear something from APLU in the next few weeks.
 - Approved BAA and CARET budgets. Recommendation to work with Jeff Jacobson for reinvestment of carry over dollars, in effort to improve financial standing.
 - Encouraged to engage CARET representative for March 2022 meeting.
- 8. APLU Update**
- Finalized week long APLU conference.
 - APLU annual meeting is November 15-17, registration available on www.APLU.org.
 - APLU President, Peter McPherson announced intent to retire in September 2022.

- Still on a voluntary return to work, with no more than 25% capacity. Return to work scheduled to be March 01, 2022, will be required to be fully vaccinated. Continue to follow CDC guidelines.
- Still pending on what National meetings will look like in 2022. Hosted a few meetings in person.
- Advocacy efforts continue. Objective to get 1862's qualified for infrastructure, and continue to advocate for additional funding and consideration.
- 3 staff vacancies. Check out website for full list and complete details.
- Canadian Deans have engaged APLU, and expressed interested to work more closely in the future on a dean level. APLU is interested in expanding network regionally.
- Climate continue to be a key topic emphasizing why funding ag infrastructure is important.
- Noted strong partnership with NIFA. Awaiting naming of Blue-Ribbon panel.

9. DCC 2022 Plan

- DCC will be meeting Tuesday, November 16th to discuss the plan of action for 2022.
- Anticipate engagement in wrap around programs (occur 365 days in the next year).
- Count on support from DCC on initiatives to integrate diversity equity inclusion.
- DCC will be following up on call-to-actions.

10. STC 2022 Plan *(page 22 in hyperlink above & [link to presentation](#))*

- Bernie will work with the STC committee to accomplish the STC 2022 plan presented.
- Parage reported that the Blue-Ribbon panel should be announced next week. Their first meeting (closed) is scheduled for November 22, 2021.
- Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the STC document was approved and will be submitted to USDA.

11. CARET 2022 Plan

- CARET strategic plan and implementation plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Below are focus areas of strategic plan:
 - Build and strengthen relationships including a comprehensive understanding of all parts of the Land Grant Systems.
 - Improving and increasing communication and coordination.
 - Engaged and accountable CARET representatives.
- 2022 Joint CARET/ AHS meeting and celebration of 40th anniversary in person.

12. ECOP 2022 Action Plan *(page 27 in hyperlink above)*

- 4 priorities for action plan:
- Expand federal and non-federal resources available to extension.
- Increase visibility and recognition of the Cooperative Extension System as a provider of evidence-based education and services and as a valuable partner to federal and national non-federal entities through improved communications of program impacts and successes.
- Support the professional success of Extension Leadership through tailored professional development opportunities including training, webinars, in person meetings, networking opportunities and more.
- Identify ongoing and emerging CES priorities and national issues and provide mechanisms for collective action.

13. NIFA Reporting System 2022 Plan *(page 30 in hyperlink above)*

- Reduced Plans of Work from ~80 pages to average of 7-8 pages. Reduction for Annual Reports of Accomplishments from ~200 pages to 20-30 pages. Released a streamlined research imitation form that reduced input and review times by ~50%.
- NIMMS integration kicked off today. Hatch integrations are included in NRS.
- Results module is in final design phase. This will look different than the REEport module, and will have 4 questions.
- April 1, 2022 is the due date for the annual report, seeking approval to change Plan of Work due date to July 1, 2022.
- The financial model is in early development design phase. The goal is to have everything into one module to eliminate supplemental reports.
- Financial reports will be due February 1, 2022 in REEport.
- All capacity projects completed this fiscal year will go into REEport; all others will be reported in the new module (upon release).

14. LEAD21 2022 Plan *(page 34 in hyperlink above)*

- Call for applications for Class 18; closes on November 30th.
- June 12-17, 2022 is the first meeting date, and scheduled for in person.

15. Other Business- ESS Climate Change Leadership Strategies *(page 36 in hyperlink above)*

- Generated at the 2021 Fall ESS meeting 3 strategic leadership buckets were identified.
- Organize interdisciplinary teams to support specific climate change programs.
- Enable climate change research initiatives through strategic investment.
- Engage internal and external agencies to address specific climate change issues.
- Upon a motion properly made, seconded and carried, the ESS Climate Change Leadership Strategies were approved.

16. NIFA Update

- Waiting to see what happens with reconciliation bill.

17. Final Remarks and Adjourn

- Chris thanked members for their time and continued contributions to ESCOP.