

ESCOP Executive Committee Business Meeting

Monday, November 13, 2017, 3:45pm – 5:00pm

Washington Marriott Wardman Park (Wilson C room)

- Gary Thompson called the meeting to order
- Roll Call: Dave Benfield, David Leibovitz, Joe Colletti, Rick Rhodes, Gary Thompson, Eric Young, Jeff Jacobsen, Becky Walth, Bret Hess, Deb Hamernik, Bob Godfrey, Steve Lommel, George Hopper, Adel Shirmohammadi, Jody Jellison, Mike Harrington, Bill Brown, Saied Mostaghimi, Alton Thompson, Jim Richards, Josh Stull, Robin Shepard, Amrit Bart, Vernie Hubert, Glenda Humiston, Moses Kairo, Hunt Shipman
- Paperless meeting!
- Addition to agenda – 2.8 (Jeff Jacobsen, NRCS Discussion)
 - Motion to approve agenda introduced, seconded, approved
- Approval of minutes from Joint COPs
 - Motion to approve minutes introduced, seconded
 - Request to change Morrell Act to Morrill Act
 - Minutes approved, with Morrell – Morrill change
- Chair's Interim Actions
 - Gary in touch with Andrea Putman to get involved with Retaking the Field
 - ESCOP would craft a multistate report for Retaking the Field
 - Vol III – Agricultural Sciences for Health
 - Vol IV – topic TBD
 - Gary will continue engagement with Andrea Putman
 - APS-ESS Joint Session
 - Inaugural collaborative session, want to keep up with that moving forward
 - Invited Amrit Bart (ICOP) to the Exec Meeting (Item 4.0) to discuss how ESCOP and ICOP can best interact
- 2.1 Policy Board of Directors
 - Jay Akridge gave a detailed summary of the PBD activities
 - Gary Thompson is the ESCOP Policy Board rep, some points to discuss and report back to PBD:
 - Involvement of B&L committee (outcome of BAC meeting)
 - Joint COPs meeting, Guadalajara 2018
- Jump to 4.0 International Agriculture Section Engagement (Amrit Bart)
 - ESCOP / ICOP want to initiate a discussion on how the groups can interact as National organizations
 - The group introduced themselves to Amrit Bart
 - Creating “International Scholars / Global Students”
 - What can Experiment Stations do in conjunction with International Programs?
 - (Amrit takes the floor)
 - ICOP is grappling with a cohesive strategic plan, adjustments to their bylaws
 - Because of alliance with CII and BAA, ICOP is looking at where they fit into this structure

- Advocates for international:
 - Curriculum enhancement
 - Research enhancement
 - Outreach enhancement – developing countries, developing missions
- ESCOP Institutions can easily share international efforts
 - How can ICOP interact within the BAA?
 - Should ICOP decide to be a part of the BAA?
- ESCOP funding / research portfolios are broader than “NIFA”
 - Grad education/research portfolios are in lockstep
 - How do we enhance international research activities?
 - ESCOP should limit their scope to Graduate and Research activities
- (Bill Brown) – Tennessee
 - Tennessee has an international program office
 - Often International programs will report to the Administrative Head
 - What are opportunities – with USAID, student exchange / research exchange opportunities, NIFA international graduate student training RFA?
 - Faculty are serving adjunct appointments at int’l institutions
 - Grad student training exchange US – China
 - Study abroad
- (Amrit Bart)
 - Recent visit to USAID office
 - Innovation Labs are an exciting graduate research opportunity
- (Mike Harrington)
 - ESCOP should inventory the international opportunities across its institutions
- (Gary Thompson)
 - What is the intersection of ESCOP / ICOP? Not yet identified
- (Rick Rhodes)
 - Foreign ag service grant, monitoring / evaluating USAID programs
 - Send in ‘swat teams’ of experts
 - Needed a universal translator for the faculty – what’s the research component?
 - Hard to find faculty with the expertise to rapidly materialize for a USAID request
- (Amrit Bart)
 - USAID isn’t funding as many project
 - We should diversify the sources of our resources
 - Foundations (e.g. Gates foundation)
- (Adel Shirmohammadi)
 - Are there any continental based or country based programs aligned to focus on specific topic areas?
 - Can OECD (France) be of value to us?
 - UMD has received fellowships from there before
- (Amrit Bart)

- UGA, Maryland, Auburn – Consortium on food safety related topics with Chinese scientists
 - (Joe Colletti)
 - Entrepreneurship / ecosystem
 - Connectivity between entrepreneurship activities, and the relationships with Foundations (e.g. Gates)?
 - Beyond research – empowering people with a business acumen to forge joint efforts
 - (Josh Stull, NIFA)
 - Otto Gonzalez should be involved
 - Gary Thompson
 - Potential theme for a joint session – what can we do, together, for international programs?
 - ICOP is in the early stages and can't commit to much just yet...will take these ideas back to the group for discussion
 - No objections to furthering the ESCOP – ICOP collaboration
 - Consensus that this is definitely a worthwhile endeavor
 - Many thanks to Amrit Bart. Gary/Rick/Amrit will be in touch on a joint session
- 2.2 CMC
 - CMC is suggesting repositioning, to increase our ability to activate our network as a result of the CMP
 - CMC is an ESCOP committee, treated as a standing committee of the BAA, operating somewhere in between
 - Proposal to elevate the CMC to reflect the importance of the work
 - Positioning paper will be presented to the PBD
 - Recommendation for the CMC to become an adhoc committee of the BAA, with the goal of establishment as a standing committee one year after activation as an adhoc
 - Standing Committee requires 2/3 vote of Directors' membership
 - Challenge is getting participation in that vote
 - Request for BAA to create a funding mechanism for the CMC
 - CMC is currently funded through contributions from ESS/CES/AHS (\$133,333 each)
 - Where will money come from if this is no longer a standing committee of ESCOP?
 - CMC will need to articulate the value of kglobal succinctly, in a way that resonates with ECOP
 - PBD could make this part of the BAA Assessment – then there wouldn't be a section assessment, which requires approval
 - ECOP is not questioning the committee, they are questioning kglobal (Consultant on annual contract)
 - kglobal has undergone management / personnel changes, and are different than they were at the onset of the CMC
 - kglobal has pivoted

- Part of the CMP was disjointed from the BAA
 - kglobal was trying to develop a national following, to demonstrate the value of Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension
 - CMC is not engaged in Sales...
 - With the alignment of the CMP to the BAA priority areas, we've activated the audience involved in the CMP
 - The "one-ask" CTA received a tepid response, but it was the greatest response to date on our engagement with congress
 - Each institution has different restrictions on engaging congressional delegations
 - One Director activated their institution's network – Bill Brown, Tennessee
 - Tracked activity and engagement to key thought leaders / decision makers
 - How do we operate in the current Washington environment?
 - While retaining the importance of our programs
 - While retaining – or growing our levels of funding
 - With one story, one voice
 - Two components: Legislative/Budgetary, also how do we communicate with the general public?
- 2.3 Science and Technology
 - Two subcommittees, with an unclear fit in our ESCOP Rules of Operation
 - Social Sciences
 - National IPM Coordinating Committee
 - Regional EDs have drafted language to change the ESCOP Rules of Operation re: S&T subcommittees
 - Roadmap
 - NCRA has examined "non-book" approaches to a new Roadmap
 - Will provide mockups for the future
- 2.4 Budget & Legislative Committee
 - Time and Effort Reporting
 - Is it allowable for Extension/Research staff to spend time preparing grant proposals for competitive awards?
 - Any proposal written would be a logical next step to an ongoing research effort
 - What constitutes a full-time employee?
 - For Non-Hourly employees, 40 hours / week constitutes full time
 - "other time" may be used to draft proposals
 - Is there a legislative fix for this?
 - Penn State has time / effort university-wide that won't align with NIFA's time / effort reporting
 - Maryland, same situation – campus level VPR finance director got involved with the Ag college finance director
 - They come to meetings on this upset in advance
 - Post-docs concerned they won't be able to write grants, but a faculty can have a 40 hour work week and write grants?

- Faculty 60% state 40% capacity – the State is already allocated to the teaching mission
 - (Gary Thompson) – at the BAC meeting, a motion was made that the ESCOP and ECOP B&L committees would work with Cornerstone and other impacted BAC members, to create a document that would consolidate some of the discretionary lines – “Strategic Realignment”
 - Report back to the BAC by January 19, 2018
 - Cornerstone will provide a straw discussion document
- 2.5 Diversity Catalyst Committee
 - (Informational) – since Philadelphia, DCC has drafted rules of operation to clarify the size of the committee, also add a NIFA representative to the committee
 - Bobbie Moore (NIFA) is on board as NIFA representative to the DCC
 - Proposal – National Experiment Station Section Diversity & Inclusion Excellence Award
 - Part of the initial Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force
 - Drafted by Jeff, Rick, Dave, Alton, Brian
 - Influenced by Extension’s Excellence in Diversity award
 - Full intention of releasing the inaugural call in early 2018
 - Would require an electronic vote for the \$1,000 award
 - DCC would ratify the award in early December
 - ESCOP is invited to comment...
 - We can afford \$1,000
 - Who does the \$1,000 go to? The institution, or the group directly? – up to the group
 - Deadline for comments, December 1 2018 (DCC call 12/7/2018)
- 2.6 National Impact Database
 - Bill Brown – special thanks to the regional ED’s; Eric Young, lead, and others
 - Special thanks to Sarah Lupis (WAAESD) and Faith Peppers (UGA)
 - ECOP participation – Karla Trautmann, Ron Brown
 - Focusing on design changes, new look, new platform
 - TAMU – thanks for a big contribution
 - Research and Extension provide 25% contributions each
 - Scott Cummings, design lead at TAMU presenting a mockup tomorrow
 - Electronic NIDB meeting scheduled for 11/14
 - Focus on Quality – quality is currently varied
 - How do we monitor Quality of statements?
 - Gatekeeper? Appointing a jury?
 - Wide range of types of people who are submitting statements
 - Need for impact training and perhaps consistency of submitters
 - Multistate Impact Database has a template we could adopt for the National Impact Database
 - Analytics are implemented, the level of use of the NIDB is positive
 - Analytics reporting will come with the new site
- 2.7 Joint COPs
 - Scheduled for Guadalajara in 2018

- Proposal from Mexican Group
 - Mexican group is proposing hosting a Mexican cultural event hosted at 3:15pm on the Monday afternoon, which dictates the evening activities
 - Full day meeting on Tuesday
 - Proposal options for Wednesday
 - 1.) All-day Tequila tour Wednesday
 - 2.) Business meetings with optional Tequila tour Thursday
 - **Recommendation for option 2, business meetings Wednesday with optional Tequila tour Thursday**
- 2.8 [Other] NRCS Update (Jeff Jacobsen)- ask JEFF for updates
 - Group of directors led by Jeff/Robin had a meeting/conversation and will report back to the committee
 - Group provided a whitepaper on Soil Health
 - Feedback was not overwhelmingly positive
 - New paper, non-competitive approach, requested Soon.
 - Short timeline to turn around
 - Academic programs, through any training that goes on in the state, would like a database of folks involved in conservation planning
 - See what's available to improve the competency level of these people
 - Training/Development opportunity for NRCS folks
 - Negative sentiment is replicated nationwide
 - Is this a 'token' program?
 - Next steps? –
 - No time to send this out nationwide
 - Not a huge need
 - Not committing to anything, just saying what *could* be, broadly
 - Spans crop land, range land, and forests
 - Jeff/Robin could create something that's non-binding, for feedback to the EDs
- 3.0 Advocacy Update, Cornerstone
 - FY18 appropriations process underway
 - Current CR expires Dec 8
 - Another CR expected to extend until mid-late January
 - Puerto Rico asked for \$90b this morning 11/13
 - 25m increase to AFRI
 - House larger package of appropriations bills
 - House more to spend than in FY17
 - Reflected in the NIFA top line
 - Sustainable Ag, Food outreach, Federal administration
 - House and Senate need to pass tax reform bill
 - Finding relief for budget control act
 - CLP is doing well
 - 1/2/3x / week ideas come from Congress for Cornerstone's feedback
 - CLP meeting coming 11/14

- SoAR sent letter, signed by a broad cross-reference of stakeholders, sustainable ag entities, a few institutions
 - Many entities did not see the letter for the first time until the last second
 - Cornerstone supports the BAA's approach
 - Organic, Beginning farmer and rancher does not have funding beyond this farm bill
- 5.0 One Organization, One Voice
 - ECOP transition happens at APLU
 - Chuck Hibberd, new ECOP chair
 - ECOP 2017-18: "Science in Action"
- Motion to adjourn introduced, seconded, approved
 - The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

DRAFT