Memorandum

To: Regional Associations, COPs, Board on Agricultural Assembly etc, etc.

From: J. Ernest Minton,
Interim Dean College of Agriculture
Kansas State University,
Strategic Realignment Committee Chair

Subject: Strategic Realignment Recommendations

Policy Board of Directors (PBD) Chair, Mark Hussey appointed the Strategic Realignment Committee early February 2018. The Committee met during February to late June in one face-to-face meeting, several video conferences as well as email exchanges to develop a set of recommendations that would strategically realign NIFA budget lines to reduce the total number while maintaining program integrity and function. In developing the recommendations, the committee considered enabling legislation, funding history, whether there were indirect costs, any review processes and history of the President’s Budget Requests vs appropriations.

The initial draft recommendations and supporting documents shared with participants at the 2018 Joint-COPs meeting in Guadalajara resulted in suggestions for consideration. Examples include move to even fewer lines (e.g. 6 lines to as few as one line), take an incremental approach, emphasize academic programs, combine 3d programs with Smith-Lever, consideration of lines affecting 1994s, etc. One innovative suggestion would create three lines covering Discovery, Learning and Engagement.

Feedback on a three-line model presented at the Board on Agriculture Assembly meetings at the APLU Annual Meetings in November 2018 resulted in the committee adopting a single top line goal with three sub program areas including Education/Learning, Extension/Engagement and Research and Discovery.

This process has now reached the point where the Academic Programs, Administrative Heads, Extension Directors, and Experiment Station Directors must play key roles in vetting recommendations with faculty and stakeholders.

Two webinars summarizing the recommendations and an explanation of the appropriations process, committee charge, the recommendation and FAQs are available at: (See http://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/Strategic%20Realignment)

Regional association members should view the webinars, carefully consider the recommendations, and participate in one or more scheduled Q/A discussion sessions. Please provide feedback through your respective Sections following the timeline below. A schedule of Q/A discussion sessions will be forthcoming.

The Strategic Realignment Committee will consider suggestions and seek to arrive at recommendations that are acceptable to the COPS, Sections, BAC, and CLP for presentation to the Policy Board of Directors at a future meeting.
Timeline

- Week of 1/14: Background materials shared
- 1/28 – 2/15: Q&A Discussion Sessions occur (specific dates to be scheduled)
- 2/15 – 3/22: First round of listening and feedback from sections/regional associations
- 3/25 – 4/5: Summarize feedback, revise recommendations as needed for Policy Board
- 4/11: Policy Board Meets
- 4/15: Policy Board issues an update of materials, approaches, lines etc. based on feedback and its 4/11 meeting
- 4/15 – 6/15: Second round of webinars and regional feedback based on 4/15 update if needed
- 7/1: Any additional feedback is summarized for Policy Board meeting at joint COPS, distribution to Policy Board prior to 7/24
- 7/24: Policy Board meeting at joint COPS