

Administrative Heads Section Report – Jay Akridge – March 31, 2015

AHS supports a change in the Policy Board of Directors by-laws from requiring a 2/3 majority of all voting members to support a proposed action, to a 2/3 majority of those submitting votes to support a proposed action. Such a change would provide an incentive for BAA members to vote, would remove the uncertainty of interpreting ballots not cast, and enable the BAA to be more responsive and pro-active. AHS supports a vote on this change in Spring 2015.

AHS is concerned about the recommendation in the President's budget to make a portion of the capacity funds competitive. The BAC will be exploring this issue with NIFA.

AHS is supportive of system support for the 1:1 state match requirement for the all the 1890 Land Grant institutions. Strong support was expressed by the AHS members and this effort will be a focal point of engagement for the AHS in those states having an 1890 institution.

The reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act could impact SNAP-Ed funding. Cornerstone will monitor this closely and the CLP will form a subcommittee to discuss options and prepare a strategy based on possible scenarios. AHS voted to approve the formation of this subcommittee.

AHS approved a recommendation from CARET to have one liaison each for the 1890 and 1994 institutions. Currently, there is one liaison representing both of these groups. AHS is working on more timely appointment of CARET members who can most effectively carry our priorities to Congress.

AHS is supportive of including the BAA futuring activity as part of the broader APLU futuring activity. This approach should help BAA keep our priorities and perspectives in the broader conversation about the future of APLU universities.

AHS is supportive of the activities of the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee.

The Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force has been formed and the work is underway. The foci of the task force will be to provide advice and suggestions to those federal agencies that are charged with the development of action plans to address antimicrobial resistance and the use of antibiotics in agricultural production. Efforts will focus on research, education and stewardship.

AHS is supportive of the BAA communications strategy and the message testing underway. The message testing effort yielded very valuable information of the effects of the messaging/communications effort.