

BAA Policy Board of Directors Plan of Work 2017 -- 2022

Academic Programs Section Report

PBD Member: Elaine Turner **Reporting Period:** Oct 1, 2018 – Sep 30, 2019 **Section Chair:** Marcos Fernandez

Briefly describe any new or modified activities, initiatives, policies or other actions conducted by your section or organization in the past year that directly addressed the PBD planned goals and actions below. Also, list your section's key initiatives/actions planned for next year.

Current and Emerging Issues and Future Directions
Goal: Identify current and emerging local, regional, national, and global opportunities and challenges and facilitate strategic discussions and actions that will impact and guide future directions for the System.
Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage strategic approaches to integrate, prioritize, and address existing and anticipated future opportunities and challenges in learning, discovery, and engagement.• Provide forums to engage the System and external partners in strategic dialogues to develop recommendations on policy and System-wide approaches for action to address current and emerging issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• APS Winter Meeting workshop focused on compassion fatigue and issues of self-care for academic professionals, an issue of growing importance as campuses deal with ever-increasing mental health needs in the student population.• APS facilitated release of results from the nationwide survey on Employability Skills in Agriculture and Natural Resources through a series of webinars that will continue into 2020.

Resource Advocacy
Goal: Seek additional resources for the System through collaborations, partnerships, communications, marketing, budget development, and advocacy.
Actions: Support the Budget & Advocacy Committee (BAC) in its budget development and advocacy efforts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing the System's federal budget request and associated messages with target audiences.• Communicating and vetting BAC's message throughout the System and stimulating and supporting dialogue among sections.• Coordinating marketing and communication efforts across the BAA and among learning, discovery, and engagement leaders.• Fostering understanding of the rationale for budget requests and gaining commitment for them.• Using the BAA's contracted advocacy and communication and marketing firms effectively by setting and providing oversight for achievement of measurable goals.

- Including System members and constituent groups (e.g. CARET, professional societies, commodity organizations, and other user groups) in the development and implementation of advocacy strategies.
 - Facilitating development of a strategic communications and marketing plan to enhance the public's understanding of the System's impacts on social, environmental, and economic issues at the community, national, and international levels.
 - Identifying and cultivating legislative Congressional champions.
 - Building and deepening relationships across all missions with the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).
 - Seeking and establishing mission-critical relationships with other appropriate federal and state agencies including the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).
 - Identifying and recommending new national-level collaborators and partners and fostering mutually beneficial relationships.
- **ACOP members reviewed the strategic realignment proposal with specific attention to lines associated with academic programs. This input was provided to the BAC and PBD.**

Authorizing Legislation and Associated Action
Goal: Develop and support policies and legislative action and subsequent implementation that enhance the System's ability to carry out its missions and increase the federal investment in the System over the life of the Farm Bill.
Actions: Support the Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) in its efforts to guide Farm Bill and other appropriate legislation development, passage, and subsequent implementation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning the System for new opportunities. • Developing appreciation within key federal agencies of the System's capabilities. • Identifying and cultivating legislative champions. • Forming implementation teams to work with appropriate federal agencies. • Monitoring rules as they are developed and published. • Keeping the System informed of new opportunities and funding mechanisms presented as new legislation is implemented. • Monitor legislation and policies that may enhance or impede the System's progress and work with decision makers to make modifications where appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APS continues to refine the guidelines for the USDA-NIFA Teaching Awards Programs. • New NIFA Director Scott Angle was a guest at the APS business meeting during APLU. • APS provided input to NIFA on the Non-land-grant Capacity Grants Program with respect to defining a “non-land-grant college of agriculture” as amended in the Farm Bill. • APS provided feedback to NIFA regarding Congressional directives on minority participation in agriculture and minority enrollment.

System Integration

Goal: Enhance integration of goals and activities among BAA members and between the BAA and other groups within APLU's structure to gain synergy from collaborative actions.

Actions:

- Develop a public value message to describe and communicate collective BAA impact.
- Encourage efficiencies between and among federal agencies for learning, discovery, and engagement.
- Continue communication among PBD members to find common ground and enhance integration of efforts.
- Support events and other opportunities that promote cross-Section communication and collaboration.
- Work with APLU staff and BAA Executive Directors and Administrators to ensure appropriate and effective linkages between the BAA and other groups within APLU.
- Recognize excellence throughout the System through support of national awards and recognitions.
- Support leadership development within the System, particularly through the Food Systems Leadership Institute and LEAD-21.
- Support diversity and inclusion across the System in all decisions and actions.

- ACOP participated in the Joint COPs meeting in July 2019.
- APS maintains close relationships with APLU staff. APLU staff continued to provide an APS News Roundup email communication to provide regular updates on national issues relevant to the Section.
- APS continues to support FSLI and LEAD-21.

Next Year's Key Initiatives or Actions

Please list your section's or organization's key initiatives and/or actions planned for next year.

- Results of the Employability Skills survey will continue to be released in the upcoming year and will drive future programming. APS will host a workshop in conjunction with the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture to discuss incorporating employability skills preparation in the curriculum.
- APS members have been invited to engage in discussion with USDA about minority enrollment in agriculture
- APS will host a staff development workshop in February 2020 in conjunction with the Winter meeting. The Board of Human Sciences has been invited to send staff to this workshop.