

**Board on Agriculture Assembly**  
**\_\_Experiment Station Section\_\_ Report to Policy Board of Directors**

**PBD Member** Steve Slack

**Reporting Period** Mar '15 – July '15

**Section Chair** Bob Shulstad

(Please check the BAA-PBD Goals that each activity directly addresses.)

<b>BAA Section Activities</b> (Briefly describe activities since previous reporting period)	<b>*Goals</b>	<b>Emerging Issues and Future Directions</b>	<b>Resource Advocacy</b>	<b>Farm Bill and Legislative Action</b>	<b>System Integration</b>
ESCOP, regional associations, Executive Directors work to assure that all Directors, especially those in new positions, are informed of developments.		X	X	X	X
All ESCOP and ESS documents, agendas, presentations, etc. are found on the website. There is a direct link from the ESCOP site to the Policy Board website.		X			X
ESCOP continues to support Lead21 and the Food Systems Leadership Institute.		X			X
ESCOP participates as a partner in the National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee with NIFA and ARS to advise on managing the national plant germplasm repositories.		X			X
ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee members work to identify initiatives from the research community and advance them for incorporation into the System's advocacy effort. FY 2016 budget priorities have been determined and FY 2017 priorities are being discussed.		X	X		X
ESCOP Budget & Legislative, Communication & Marketing Committees and the Executive Directors continue to assist Cornerstone in developing appropriate communication vehicles to promote federal budget priorities.		X	X	X	X
The Executive Directors work to keep ESS members informed of progress and issues related to implementation of the new Farm Bill.		X	X	X	X
ESCOP continues to interact with NIFA on REEport, CRIS, POW, and Annual Report. The region's representatives on POW/AR Review panel will transmit suggestions from AES directors and business officers to assist NIFA in improving the POW and Annual Report.		X			X
ESCOP is a member of NC-FAR with Ernie Minton as the representative to their Board.		X	X	X	X
ESCOP Excellence in Leadership Award was established to recognize individuals who have served the Regional Associations, ESCOP, ESS, and the Land-Grant System with exemplary distinction. Regions choose an awardee that is recognized at the APLU awards ceremony.		X			

(Please check the BAA-PBD Goals that each new activity will directly address.)

<p align="center"><b>BAA Section Planned and New Activities</b> (Briefly describe any new activities planned for next year. Do not include continuing activities)</p>	<p align="center"><b>*Goals</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Emerging Issues and Future Directions</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Resource Advocacy</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Farm Bill and Legislative Action</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>System Integration</b></p>
<p>At NIFA’s request, ESCOP is leading an effort to inventory the Land-grant institutions infrastructure repair and renovation needs. Sightlines’ survey responses have been received from almost every participating institution. Survey analysis is currently underway and results are expected by late summer.</p>			<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	
<p>ESCOP has two directors and one executive director on the joint BAA/BoHS Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Steering Committee. The steering committee recently surveyed over 60 scientists, nominated by deans of agriculture and human sciences and AES directors, to determine research priorities and potential partnerships. A large and diverse array of responses was received, so a subcommittee was appointed to develop a set of research goals and objectives and key partners based on those responses. Their report was submitted to the steering committee on June 30 and will be discussed during a conference call on July 27.</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>	<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The ESCOP Science &amp; Technology Committee announced that the winner of 2015 Excellence in Multistate Research award is NC-140, <i>Improving Economic and Environmental Sustainability in Tree-Fruit Production Through Changes in Rootstock Use</i>.</p>	<p align="center">X</p>			<p align="center">X</p>	
<p>The ESCOP Budget &amp; Legislative Committee is working with ECOP B&amp;L to develop a process whereby system-wide initiatives with new funding requests may be brought forward and advocated for in the federal budget.</p>	<p align="center">X</p>		<p align="center">X</p>		<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The new NIMSS development is progressing on schedule, data migration is taking place and beta testing is expected to begin in late July. Projected launch of the new database is late August or early September.</p>					<p align="center">X</p>

\*Please see the attached 2012-2016 BAA-PBD Plan of Work Goals and Actions for more information on goals.