

Board on Agriculture Assembly
__Experiment Station Section__ Report to Policy Board of Directors

PBD Member Steve Slack **Reporting Period** July '15 – Nov '15 **Section Chair** Shirley Hymon-Parker

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

BAA Section Activities (Briefly describe activities since previous reporting period)	*Goals	Emerging Issues and Future Directions	Resource Advocacy	Farm Bill and Legislative Action	System Integration
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 and Communication & Marketing Committees and the Executive Directors continue to assist Cornerstone and kglobal 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 Farm Bill and issues for the next Farm Bill.		X	X	X	X
ESCOP's regional representatives on POW/AR Review Panel participated in forming recommendations to NIFA for improving the POW and Annual Report. ESCOP transmitted a letter to the NIFA Director supporting the Review Panel's recommendations.		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			
The ESCOP and ECOP Chairs continue their strategic alliance by having regular conference calls and meetings with key decision makers in NIFA and other federal agencies.		X	X	X	X

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

<p align="center">BAA Section Planned and New Activities (Briefly describe any new activities planned for next year. Do not include continuing activities)</p>	<p align="center">*Goals</p>	<p align="center">Emerging Issues and Future Directions</p>	<p align="center">Resource Advocacy</p>	<p align="center">Farm Bill and Legislative Action</p>	<p align="center">System Integration</p>
<p>At NIFA's request, ESCOP lead an effort to inventory the Land-grant institutions infrastructure repair and renovation needs. Sightlines' analysis has been completed and the system-wide report released. Participating institutions will receive individual campus analysis by late November.</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's report on the proposed new initiative was submitted to the BAA and BoHS Chairs on Oct 2 with a request for endorsement by their executive bodies by Dec 1. Board chairs were also requested to appoint a committee to develop a multi-agency budget request for the initiative by Mar 1.</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 & 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>. The request for 2016 nominations was recently sent to all ESS directors.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>		<p align="center">X</p>	
<p>The ESCOP Budget & Legislative Committee worked with ECOP B&L to develop a process whereby system-wide initiatives with new funding requests may be brought forward and advocated for in the federal budget. This joint document was recently submitted to the PBD's Budget & Advocacy Committee for review and adoption.</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 from the old system has occurred, and beta testing is underway. Projected launch of the new database is late October or early November.</p>					<p align="center">X</p>
<p>The ESCOP Chair has appointed a Diversity in Research Leadership Task Force that is charged with exploring the topic of diversity in research leadership across the land-grant university system, to provide ideas and actions for consideration, and to supplement institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts. Focus will be primarily on enhancing diversity among AES and Research Directors, and their associates and assistants.</p>		<p align="center">X</p>			<p align="center">X</p>

*Please see the attached 2007-2012 BAA-PBD Plan of Work Goals and Actions for more information on goals.