



AGENDA

**BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (EDT)
November 17, 2020**

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Topic: BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Time: Nov 17, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Call to Order (Beyrouty)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Beyrouty)
- IV. COVID-19 and FY 2021 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
- V. Discussion of priorities for FY 2022 and an advocacy plan (Beyrouty)
- VI. Review 2021 Proposed CARET Budget (Gouge)
- VII. CGA Update–SCRI(Mathias)
- VIII. Infrastructure Update (Gala)
- IX. Other Business

Call to Order and Roll Call

BAC Chairman Craig A. Beyrouy called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following individuals participated in the conference call:

Craig A. Beyrouy (*Chair*), *University of Maryland, College Park*
Paul M. Patterson (*Advocacy Chair*), *Auburn University*
Kelly F. Millenbah (*APS*), *North Michigan State University*
Jon C. Boren (*CES*), *New Mexico State University*
Glenda Humiston (*ESS*), *University of California Systemwide*
Deanna Behring (*IAS*), *The Pennsylvania State University*
John L. Phillips (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Patrese Atine (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Karen L. Jones (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*
Usman Adamu (*Insular/Territories*), *University of the Virgin Islands*
Jim Handley (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2020-2021*), *Florida*
Brian Hardin (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2022-2023*), *Alabama*
Erik J. Porfeli, (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*
Linda M. Nagel (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*
Carolyn J. Henry (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*
Thomas G. Coon (*BAAPBD*), *Oklahoma State University*
Marshall Stewart, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*)
Sarah Mathias (*CGA*), *University of Florida*
Douglas L. Steele, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Caroline C. Henney, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *APLU*
Caron Gala, *APLU*
Florencia Drumwright, *APLU*
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
Jeffrey S. Jacobsen, *North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
Hunt Shipman, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Jim Richards *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting: **M. Ray McKinnie** (*1890 Extension*), *Virginia State University* and **Dyremple B. Marsh** (*1890 Research*), *Delaware State University*.

The following guest participated in the conference: **Jason Henderson**, *Purdue University*.

Agenda

The agenda, as amended, was approved. The BAC modified the agenda by adding a item related to a funding proposal Academic Programs Section proposal.

Minutes

The BAC minutes from October 20, 2020, as distributed, were approved.

COVID-19 and Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations' Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs provided the following update:

- the 2020 election is not over and we are awaiting recounts in several states as well as possible runoffs in Georgia
- there will be a new Administration and cabinet in 2021, and there is no real frontrunner in line to be the next Secretary of Agriculture; there is no doubt that former USDA Secretary Vilsack will be a key player
- there was no “blue wave” and the Democratic majority in the House will be smaller (a 9 to 11-vote margin); Congressman McCarthy will remain the Minority Leader
- the House Committee on Agriculture will see some change with the defeat of Congressman Peterson and there will be change on the House Committee on Appropriations; Congressmen Scott (GA) and Costa (CA) are seeking the chairmanship of the House Committee on Agriculture
- the Senate will delay organizing until January 2021 due to the runoffs in Georgia
- Senator Pat Roberts (KS) is retiring and Senator John Boozman (AR) will likely be the next chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture unless the Senate flips and then Senator Stabenow (MI) would probably become the chair
- Congresswoman Nita Lowey (NY) is retiring and her successor on the House Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee is more difficult to predict
- the runoff election is “sucking the oxygen” out of the lame-duck session but it is still possible that a fourth coronavirus bill and omnibus appropriations bill could emerge before Christmas
- the House of Representatives has passed ten of their twelve appropriations bills – the Legislative Branch and HHS bills are the only two that have not been voted upon
- the Senate released its appropriations bills last week
- the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, 2020 which level funds all of the BAC priorities except the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) – the House had a higher budget allocation than the Senate accounting for the AFRI increase and Congressman Bishop championed the Minority-Serving Institutions

Fiscal Year 2022 Priorities

Chairman Beyrouthy outlined the core principles under which the BAC would work –

- the BAC would focus on the core priorities
- the BAC would continue with the “unified ask” including the seven lines for another year (this constitutes 79% of the NIFA budget)
- the BAC will not undercut the President’s budget request
- the BAC will maintain its year-to-year consistency in being realistic
- the BAC will “do no harm” to the entire budget

Chairman Beyrouthy indicated that the Board on Agriculture Assembly is viewed as a credible source and we want that to be maintained.

The BAC agreed to continue with the seven priorities –

- Hatch Act
- Smith-Lever
- McIntire-Stennis
- 1890 Extension
- Evans-Allen
- 1994 research and Extension programs
- AFRI

The Chairman proposed the following for Fiscal Year 2022:

- a 5% increase across all areas
- a continuation of the “unified ask” one more year with the same priority areas as listed above
- a proposal to eliminate the footnotes

He indicated that the BAA would be working on strategic realignment to provide a better representation of the land-grant system’s needs.

Timeline

At the December meeting, the BAC will set nominal numbers to the budget lines for Fiscal Year 2022 and those nominal numbers will then go to the BAA Policy Board of Directors. action will allow the BAC to move quicker than before and be a leader in working with outside groups as numbers are set for AFRI.

The BAC will meet in February 2021 after the President’s budget numbers are released and confirm our budget recommendations.

Chairman Beyrouthy reminded the BAC to use www.land-grant.org.

Priorities Discussion

The following discussions ensued:

- John Phillips indicated that 5% would be a “hard sell” to the 1994 institutions’ presidents because that would be \$190,000 (about \$5,000 per institution) and they started from such a low beginning. He indicated that they 1994 presidents should have their numbers available next month. Doug Steele indicated that, if possible, we would like to have our messages aligned before either group goes public with their numbers.
- Glenda Humiston stated that the real issue is that we make a case for a return on investment and we need to get the support of commodity groups for our recommendations

Other Business

2021 CARET Budget

The [2021 CARET budget](#) (see website) was explained by Eddie Gouge, and the BAC approved the 2021 CARET budget and forwarded it to the BAA Policy Board of Directors for action.

Council of Governmental Affairs Update

Sarah Mathias provided an update from the Council of Governmental Affairs (CGA) and indicated that the Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI) was included in the Senate numbers. The CGA is looking forward to the final appropriations bill and is starting to form its messaging around the Biden priorities. She also indicated that this would be her last meeting as the CGA representative and that she would bring her replacement to the December meeting to introduce her.

Caron Gala indicated that she would be happy to coordinate the message between the BAC and the CGA. Gala also reported that she was interacting with Forbes, Gordian, and the Experiment Station Section on infrastructure and they would have a slide deck in early December and they would be moving into their public campaign in February 2021.

Academic Program Section Proposal

The Academic Program Section presented a [proposal](#) (see website) to \$40 million of authorized funding under Section 1417 of NAREPTA. The BAC deferred any action on the proposal until the December meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Beyrouthy adjourned the BAC meeting at 5:23 p.m. (EDT).

Executive Session

Following the BAC meeting, the [voting members](#) of the BAC met in Executive Session to discuss the advocacy and consulting contracts with Cornerstone Government Affairs.

Doug Steele and Eddie Gouge was asked to provide some documentation to the voting members of the BAC in relation to the current contract with Cornerstone Government Affairs. The voting

members of the BAC will go into Executive Session following the December 15, 2020 BAC meeting for final action on the advocacy contract.

The Executive Session of the BAC ended at 5:43 p.m.