

MINUTES

Academic Programs Section (APS) Business Meeting Monday, November 12, 2018 New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, Louisiana

APS Meeting was called to order at 3:45 PM (Tracy Hoover).

APS Group Picture with Dr. Scott Angle, new Director of NIFA.



Welcome and Introduction of Attendees: Cindy Akers (Texas Tech Univ.); Antoine Alston (North Carolina A&T Univ.); Jean Bertrand (Clemson Univ.); Joe Broder (Univ. Georgia); David Buchanan (North Dakota State Univ.); Sandy Bushmich (Univ. Connecticut); Penny Diebel (Oregon State Univ.); Kim Dooley (Texas A&M Univ.); Tracy Dougher (Montana State Univ.); J. Marcos Fernandez (Purdue Univ.); Wendy Fink (APLU-APS); Bryan Garton (Univ. Missouri); Tiffany Hong-Moss (Univ. Nebraska); Tracy Hoover (Penn State Univ.); Neil James (Florida A&M Univ.); Alton Johnson (Central State Univ.); Prasanta Kalita (Univ. Illinois); Don Marshall (South Dakota State Univ.); Kelly Millenbah (Michigan State Univ.); Steven Neal (Ohio State Univ.); Lona Robertson (Univ. Arkansas); John Stier (Univ. Tennessee-Knoxville); Joe Sullivan (Univ. Maryland); Susan Sumner (Virginia Tech Univ.); Elaine Turner (Univ. Florida); Anne Veeger (Univ. Rhode Island); Don Viands (Cornell Univ.); Brian Warnick (Utah State Univ.); Shannon Washburn (Kansas State Univ.); Ania Wiczorek (Univ. Hawaii); Scott Willard (Mississippi State Univ.); Todd Winters (Univ. Tennessee-Martin); Amy Wright (Auburn Univ., AL).

A. Dr. J. Scott Angle, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

A1. Talked about his professional journey (Bio); only 12th day on the job in new position!

A2. Director Angle: *“My role, NIFA’s role, is to support you with what you do... we have \$1.6 billion to help you do your work... admit that there is not as much money to fund education-type initiatives, but many of the new research programs have educational components to them.”*

A3. Another role of NIFA is to regularly report to Congress all the great things taking place across our campuses.

A4. NIFA has a talented and dedicated staff.

A5. Of course, much of the talk is around the uncertainty of the pending NIFA relocation outside of Washington DC (Capital region). 136 proposals from 35 states were received... all will get fair consideration USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue wants NIFA to be out with the stakeholders he sees USDA serving the farmers and ranchers, agribusinesses, rural America, etc., and believes NIFA would be better able to do that if not located within the Capital region. Some NIFA administrative leadership (approx. 50 individuals) will stay in Washington, DC to strategically and better serve the needs at the federal level. Still, there are a lot of “moving parts” and we may experience some problems or issues during the transition (as normally expected) but will do everything possible to minimize the bumps. NIFA recognizes there is a great deal of angst among current employees (losing approx. one staff member/week) and it is difficult to hire new employees not knowing where they may have to live and work; NIFA may consider utilizing NSF’s “Rotators Model” to take care of temporary needs arising during the transition.

A6. Dr. Angle shared that he was concerned with the very low success rate (approx. 7% in some cases) in successfully procuring USDA/NIFA grants, especially what impact that can have on young, aspiring faculty. Wish to increase funding of these grants in order to improve success rates.

A7. Dr. Angle shared that he knows he will have many questions as he transitions into this new leadership role, and plans to seek answers, suggestions and solutions from groups such as APS. With APS/NARRU holding their Annual Winter Meeting in the Washington, DC, area (March 5-9, 2019, Arlington VA) maybe Dr. Angle can schedule a time to meet and dialog with APS/NARRU attendees.

A8. QUESTION: *“Could the relocation of NIFA impact proposal dates?”* ANSWER: *“To the best of our abilities, we want to maintain proposal dates and deadlines. However, along with the change in NIFA, we are concomitantly dealing with a possible Continuing Resolution (funding the federal government) and the new Farm Bill, so there is a lot taking place.”*

A9. QUESTION: *“Does the USDA Secretary see universities as stakeholders or not?”* ANSWER: *“I’m not in a position to know exactly how Secretary Perdue sees universities, except to say that while he was governor of Georgia, we found him to be supportive of higher education in the state. Also, I know if you listen to his comments, you will find he is supportive of farmers and families, and certainly sees them as stakeholders. You need to ask him.”*

B. Voting for APS Secretary, Western Region. Two administrators agreed/volunteered to be candidates for the position: Dr. Penny Diebel, Oregon State University, and Dr. Brian Warnick, Utah State University. APS members present voted **Dr. Penny Diebel (Oregon State Univ.)** as its new APS Secretary.

C. Ag*IDEA, Cindy Akers (Texas Tech Univ.).

C1. Defined Ag*IDEA to the entire group of APS attendees.

C2. Shared about Academic Program Share vs. Course Share options that they are still working through, and requested that Ag*IDEA be an Agenda Topic during the upcoming APS/NARRU Winter Meetings (March 2019). This was agreed to.

D. Approval of APS Winter Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2018: Approved.

E. Executive Director's Report, Wendy Fink, APLU

E1. The Annual Salary Survey that is normally conducted in the Fall will instead be conducted this coming Spring (2019). Too busy! Look for it in your email.

E2. **Strategic Realignment Proposal.** Went from 45 lines to “three buckets” – **Research/Discovery Programs** (\$839.727 M), **Extension/Engagement Programs** (\$472.384 M), and **Education/Learning Programs** (\$44.204 M; with maybe an additional \$19.386 M [for a new total of \$63.54 M] with the inclusion of the “Education Grants for 1890 Institutions” line currently listed under the Research/Discovery Programs “bucket”). There are still many concerns, doubts, and questions. For instance, if there is a 10% increase in one of the “buckets” how is that going to be distributed across the different lines that make up that particular “bucket”? Furthermore, APS is considering how to internally designate the one “Educational/Learning Program” line into two sub-categories: Agricultural Education Capacity Programs, and Education and Workforce Development Programs. From the NARRU Reps: *“we can't help but notice that the total amount available for Educational/Learning Programs is essentially 10% of the Extension line and 5% of the Research line, and yet workforce development and educational programs should be of importance to politicians wanting to build-up and strengthen the workforce.”* And Wendy Fink added, *“and how about the most recent USDA-Purdue Jobs Outlook for College Graduates Report that states a lack of graduates in the agricultural and related sciences to fill the expected workforce demands?”* And from the 1890 Reps: *“anything that will help us grow our budget lines – which is badly needed in order to enhance our institutions' capacities – should be seen as a good thing.”* Charged to bring and discuss the topic of Strategic Realignment in the following committees: NARRU, 1890s, and ACOP. For all her diligence and work, the attendees recognized Wendy Fink with a well-deserved applause.

E3. **APS Budget Proposal** will be e-mailed to APS by Wendy after making some minor corrections/revisions. Approved as amended via unanimous vote.

E4. With a substantial budgetary surplus and carry-over, a discussion ensued on the Western Region's request for some funds to help support a workshop on Generation Z (Andrew McPeak, Growing Leaders). The discussion then turned/advanced to the four APS Regions being able to request for up to **\$2,000.00** in partial support of **Regional-level Teaching & Learning Conferences/Workshops**. Approved by unanimous vote.

E5. Regarding the APS Budget, discussion ensued regarding what it would take for **APS to count on and pay for 100% of Wendy Fink's** leadership services vs. the current 60%. This appears to have broad support across ACOP and APS. Before and in order to make this a possibility, discussions are needed with APLU's Peter McPherson and Doug Steele. Maybe pursue in 10 percentage unit increments over a three-year period?

E6. **USDA National Awards Program for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Nomination Guidelines** (Revised January 2018) – Handout (16 pp.) e-mailed by Wendy Fink to APS members on November 11, 2018. Are Early-Career Teachers restricted using current definitions?

QUESTION: “*Should we consider rewriting the definition of ‘Early-Career’ and use percentage teaching rather than ranks and position titles?*” The term “Early-Career” is generally seven years or less. And does the proposed change restrict applicants to tenure track faculty, and if so, was/is that the intent of this awards category?

RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate the last sentence [??] and e-mail the revised proposal (without track changes) to APS members and call for an electrical vote. There is limited time to act on this. Also, the need or requirement to provide “if the information is available, please provide Student Evaluation comparisons of the nominee compared with departmental, college, and/or university peers” is becoming more and more difficult as universities are moving away from providing these types of comparative data. Let’s discuss during the upcoming APS/NARRU Winter Meeting (March 2019).

F. The 2019 APS/NARRU Annual Winter Meeting (March 5 – 8, 2019), Hilton Crystal City at Washington Reagan National Airport, Arlington, VA.

F1. The program for the Winter Meeting will be developed and worked on by Regional Chair-elects.

G. The 2019 APLU Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 10-12, 2019, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, CA.

H. The passing of the **APS Chair Gavel** from Tracy Hoover, 2017-18 (Penn State Univ.) to Marcos Fernandez, 2018-19 (Purdue Univ.).

I. APS Business Meeting was closed at 5:13 PM

Minutes respectfully completed & submitted, November 15, 2018, J. Marcos Fernandez
(APS Chair-Elect) on behalf of Cynda Clary (APS Secretary)