

## MINUTES

### Academic Committee On Organization and Policy (ACOP) Winter Meeting, Wednesday, March 8, 2017 Westin Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia.

ACOP Meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM (David Shintani).

**Introduction of Attendees:** **Cindy Akers** (Texas Tech Univ.); **Gary Blair** (CARET); **Don Boggs** (Kansas State Univ.); **Cynda Clary** (Oklahoma State Univ.); **Penny Diebel** (Oregon State Univ.); **Marcos Fernandez** (Purdue Univ.); **Wendy Fink** (APLU-APS); **Jeffory Hattey** (Ohio State Univ.); **Tracy Hoover** (Penn State Univ.); **Ian Maw** (APLU); **Kelly Millenbah** (Michigan State Univ.); **Lona Robertson** (Univ. Arkansas); **David Shintani** (Univ. Nevada); **Susan Sumner** (Virginia Tech Univ.); **Elaine Turner** (Univ. Florida); **Don Viands** (Cornell Univ.).

**Approval of ACOP Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2016,** Approved with Minor Revisions.

**NARRU Report** (Cindy Akers, Texas Tech University): Members from NARRU Institution are presently in the midst of conducting their Hill visits. Next NARRU Meeting will be October 1-4, 2017, and hosted by Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. On an every-other-year cycle (odd years) USDA/NIFA is required to attend the NARRU Meeting.

**CLP Report** (Susan Sumner, Virginia Tech Univ.): Only one conference call held thus far. Discussions on Farm Bill still ongoing, and Farm Bill Hearings are starting to take place. Asked: *“Will there really be a Farm Bill in 2018?”* Response: *“The House says ‘Yes’.”* ESCOP/ECOP – Bringing up to NIFA the matching requirements with USDA/NIFA Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grants, and hoping to resolve it for the Farm Bill.

**CARET Report** (Gary Blair, CARET Rep for APS): While on the Hill, spent time on the “One Ask” Cornerstone did a good job preparing CARET Reps from the various states for this event on the Hill [HANDOUT]. A lot on Western United States. Southern Region will hold a Mini-Land Grant meeting at the University of Florida, Gainesville. In order to put the “T” back into “CARET,” CARET Regional meetings to be asked/encouraged to invite (a) USDA Regional Teaching Award recipients, and (b) APLU-APS Innovation of Teaching award winners join them/participate at the meetings. David Shintani (Univ. Nevada) mentioned they will start recognizing Western Region Teaching Award recipients, developing their own recognition system utilizing much the same process currently in place for the USDA National Teaching Awards.

**BAC Report** (Wendy Fink, APLU-APS): Mentioned the “One Ask” and thanked APS ACOP members that participated in the Conference Call.

**Policy Board** (Elaine Turner, Univ. Florida): Mentioned the “One Ask.” For the scheduled November 2017 Policy Board Meeting, ESCOP’s Jeff Jacobson, we should try to coordinate on Diversity & Inclusion efforts. We (APS-ACOP) need to find an APS Alternate Policy Board Member to replace APS’s Cameron Faustman (Univ. Connecticut) now that he is serving as Interim Dean at UConn. APS needs to come up with two [2] nominees before the April Meeting, but the Policy Board chooses which one will serve; it is their choice.

Cynda Clary (Oklahoma State Univ.) “*Work toward better, more effective marketing of APS?*” Work with AgCom and Social Media to identify key words and hash tags APS can easily tack-on to add to CARET as a result of our students. Inclusion of a “Public value” statement. APLU’s Ian Maw and Wendy Fink to touch base with Rick Rhoads whom is in charge. Wendy Fink asked “*If Ag is America we can promote graduate numbers from every commencement.*” ACOP members liked the idea. We have our own hashtag: APLUAPS.

**APS Staff Development Workshop** (David Shintani, Univ. Nevada): Will be hosted by the University of Nevada in Reno, NV, on May 22-24, 2017. The registration fees will be low: \$150-125, as well as room rates (approx. \$69/night plus tax). [HANDOUT] Received \$10,000.00 from APS in partial support of the workshop.

**APS Reserve Budget Proposal** (Cynda Clary, Oklahoma State Univ., and Don Viands, Cornell Univ.): [HANDOUT] The “Carry Forward Committee” felt that holding 12-18 mo. worth of funds was reasonable, placing APS at \$100,000 over three years. Four suggestions listed in HANDOUT, are all “great suggestions.” Ian Maw suggested separating the reserve. Change wording for Suggestion #1 to be more encompassing. ACOP voted to approve proposal with minor changes in wording. Cynda Clary (Oklahoma State Univ.), Wendy Fink (APLU-APS), and Susan Sumner (Virginia Tech Univ.) to develop an “APS Travel Grant” Process.

**Teaching Awards** (Wendy Fink, APLU-APS):

**APS Innovation Teaching Awards**: Thirteen [13] applications received, 10 will be awarded. Applications will be reviewed by non-applicant APS members. Relative to previous years, we did not see an increase in the number of applications submitted, but a case can be made for superior quality of the submissions received.

**USDA Teaching Awards**: Dave Buchanan (North Dakota State Univ.) and committee members have a plan to present to APS, to be voted upon by ACOP during upcoming July 2017 Joint COPS Meeting, and put in place by 2018.

**Director’s Report** (Ian Maw, APLU):

**Deferred Maintenance**: A need greater than \$8.4 Billion to address deferred maintenance projects across our universities (Texas A&M Univ. and Univ. of California System did not participate). There is hope that the needed funds could make their way into new Farm Bill or President Trump’s Infrastructure Package.

**Capacity Survey Results**: We believe overall it was positive; the case was made. However, caught-up with NIFA & USDA red-tape, so next time APLU should lead this.

**Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**: Report received 10 days ago; all veterinary schools have it, and soon so shall animal science departments. The report will be posted on the web. We need to make sure students are being properly trained in/with AMR, so how do we [universities] change/revise curriculum across all educational levels to ensure that we are teaching what we are doing/practicing. Overall, Ian is pleased with the report. One recommendation from the report: establish a National AMR Institute, likely at a university that have or offers (a) Veterinary Medicine, (b) Human Medicine, (c) Agriculture, and (d) Public Health on their campus (very few options). Could be a “Virtual AMR Institute.” Look toward foundational, pharmaceutical, and commodity/producer groups to help fund it. Currently, a small cadre of university presidents are discussing the plan, with a hopeful target of 2017.

**Healthy Food Systems/Healthy People (HFS/HP) Taskforce**: Ian Maw says, “*It’s a marvelous report!*” Emphasizes that it is an ongoing project, and enthusiastically encourages ACOP members to take a look at it.

**Commission on Challenge of Change 2050 (CoC)**: This is much bigger than the BAA. Kello Foundation awarded \$500,000 in support, toward the 30-person assembly. A draft of the report

should be released soon. Wendy Fink added, “*the report is only the beginning, with the ‘real work’ following, especially with the federal side.*”

**Understanding Grant Awards from Federal Agencies Beyond NIFA:** We appear to have a good handle on funding our institutions are awarded through NIFA Grants, but not as strong of a handle as that derived from other federal granting agencies (NSF, NIH, etc.). Frankly, we need to have better grasp on all these funding lines in order to more effectively show our leverage. Ian Maw will be putting some things together working with our college deans; to include all sources of funding. Moreover, graduate students are concerned with their funding for assistantships.

**Canadian & Mexican Public Post-Secondary Institutions & APLU:** Our Canadian and Mexican counterparts are engaging and/or joining APLU around large issues. MOUs around water, climate change, etc.

**The Ag Exhibit on the Hill** (Wendy Fink, APLU-APS): Returns after an eight-year absence. APLU was granted 20 spaces, but appeared to have 32-36 requests for those spaces; list of institutions by Wendy. APS should consider highlighting the educational pipeline/workforce development side of our tripartite mission.

**Optional Practical Training List Update** (Kelly Millenbah, Michigan State Univ., David Shintani, Univ. Nevada Reno): PASS

**FAEIS Fall Enrollment Numbers** (Susan Sumner, Virginia Tech Univ.): “*Input was as clear as mud,*” Susan exclaimed, “*for the individuals at our institutions inputting data.*” There is a plan to have a “Webinar” to help train individuals on inputting FAEIS data, possibly this Fall (2017), and it was suggested that maybe APS could use some of its surplus/reserve funds to help fund the effort. We have a new contact at USDA. For 15 years, Virginia Tech University has served in the leadership role for managing and maintaining the FAEIS effort, but next year, the program’s leadership and management is likely to be “open again” via an RPG. Many questions and comments about FAEIS ensued... Wendy Fink (APLU-APS), “*I met with the Foresters group, and only 20-something out of approximately 60 eligible institutions submitted FAEIS data, resulting in a significant drop in Forestry Student Numbers.*” Susan Sumner (Virginia Tech Univ.), “*What is the plan to back-fill data, particularly the gaps in the 2013-14 and 2014-15 data?*” Comment made that future funding scenario, without increase, would impact FAEIS, but especially any new efforts. Could the best date [more accurate, reflective] for “Fall Enrollments” be November 1<sup>st</sup>? IPEDS data is flawed. A question arose, “*Could we have an idea when all these data deadlines or key dates are for FAEIS?*”

**NAS Follow-Up** (Wendy Fink, APLU-APS): Chair demanded draft by end of March.

**APS Survey Follow-Up** (Wendy Fink, APLU-APS): Meeting April 24 & 25 with subcommittee (incl. Tracy Hoover, Susan Sumner, etc.), so please let committee know what outcomes APS wants from of this survey. Elaine Turner (Univ. Florida) commented “*considering the geographical/ecological differences and institutional emphases across our diverse institutions, the survey tool should expand the types of employers it includes above/beyond the typical Production Agriculture employers. A suggestion would be to work through and with our various universities in order to gain a more ‘local flavor’.*” A suggestion/comment was made that we share a copy of the 2011 Survey Report (Crawford, Lang, Fink, Dalton, and Fielitz, 2011) with APS Members since there are so many new faces in APS that may not be familiar with the report. Also suggested that we get a copy of the original survey.

**APS Strategic Plan** (David Shintani, Univ. Nevada): We need to revisit the Strategic Plan we put together two [2] years ago. We need to take a look at outcomes metrics. A subcommittee made up of David Shintani, Cynda Clary, and Tracy Hoover, along with Wendy Fink, will have

something in place to share with ACOP later this Summer (July 2017) during the Joint COPS Meeting scheduled in Alberta, Canada, and then to report to the wider APS group during the Annual APLU Meeting scheduled for November 2017 in Washington, D.C.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Joint COPS, July 17-19, 2017, at Kananaskis Lodge, a Delta Hotel, Alberta, Canada.

**ACOP Meeting Adjourned:** at 3:12 PM.

Minutes composed by Marcos Fernandez (APS Secretary, Purdue University). Submitted June 6, 2017.