Academic Committee on Organization and Policy

**Joint COPs Meeting – Savannah, GA 7/25-7/26, 2012**

**Welcome and Introductions—Josef Broder**

Present:

Nancy Irlbeck (Chair Elect, Colorado State), Louise Beaman (CARET Liaison to ACOP), Charles Boyer (Cal State Fresno), Ken Esbenshade (North Carolina State), Dale Gallenberg (Univ. of Wisconsin – River Falls), Anne Veeger (Secretary, Univ. of Rhode Island), Linda Martin (The Ohio State University), Wendy Fink (APLU), Don Boggs (Past-Chair, Kansas State University), Don Marshall (South Dakota State), Ralph Otto (USDA/NIFA), Ian Maw (APLU), Joe Broder (Chair, Univ. of Georgia).

**Review of Agenda** – Josef Broder

**Approval of Minutes** – Anne Veeger

Motion to accept - Linda Martin

Second – Nancy Irlbeck,

Discussion – none

Vote - Ayes have it, minutes are approved

**Executive Director’s Report** – Ian Maw & Wendy Fink

**2011 Final Budget reconciliation**

ACOP Annual Budget presented (need copy for minutes) for FY 12

Assets – $767,069, Expenses - $287,847

Assets exceed expenses – leaving a nice reserve for APS

Income from Academic Summit did not meet expenses; but that was anticipated in the budget and is covered by the $25,000 line item set aside to cover potential budget shortfall.

Budget will be present to BAC, no need is anticipated for increasing APS assessments, except for those associated with changes in enrollment.

**’12 Assessments Update**

Payment of assessments is on track, a few outstanding institutions. 6 or 7 haven’t paid any APLU assessments; some have yet to pay APS assessment.

**Special acknowledgement of Wendy Fink’s contributions to APS; big round of applause by all.**

**Morrill Act Convocation feedback** – everyone thought event was on target both as celebration of things past as well as identifying the needs of the future. Many notes of congratulations about the event have come in to APLU.

**General question** - Linda Martin – does anyone have some ideas about role ACOP can play in terms of rallying the troops to increase participation meetings.

Ian Maw answer - Need to have conversation with Admin Heads to tell them that their academic people should be present at these meetings. Deans must reach out to their people and let them know how important participation is.

Southern section, academic folks are meeting with extension folks in the fall. That might be a useful way to move forward in other areas. Both groups are involved in activities that impact undergrad research opportunities and grad student training.

**Reminder** from Ian – still some support available for graduate students to attend Bioeconomy conference in Banff. As of last night 15 of the 20 slots were filled. 6 people on waiting list who already have someone funded from their institution. If slots remain, funding will go to those on the waiting list on a first come first serve basis.

**Question** from Don Boggs – what is the role of APS in the last discussion of the Joint COPS session - the Battel report has nothing on with workforce development/APS.

I.M. answer – APS should engage that group in a conversation as those who provide the human capital.

**Question** – Joe Broder - What is the status of GCHERA – Univ of Moscow – next June. Planning meeting last month in Rome.

**Budget and Advocacy Committee Report – Don Marshall**

FY’ ‘13 Budget Outlook/Impacts on Academic Programs

BAC met on Monday - Looking for 50-50 split on challenge vs other funding and move toward more smaller grants to maintain flexibility

Cornerstone presented on budget – and House/Senate versions

Moved on to talk about FY 14 budget – will need input on priorities from APS, should priorities remain the same.

Funding lines have been merges and re-separated, but there is still interest in Congress in combining the lines to avoid having individual lines get picked off to accomplish cuts. Integrated activities with separate lines were heavily hit in the budget cycle. By November we need to have our priorities established so they can be taken to BAC.

Much discussion on matching funds. Congressional initiative, interested in this since last farm bill, but they ran out of time in the last budget cycle. Match requirements have often been waived on some grants, although not challenge grants. Congress wants to open the discussion because they think USDA research portfolio has gone too much to special interests, they may want more finding to go to commodity crops.

Discussion on how groups in some universities have circumvented APLU process and initiated their own lobbying efforts. Animal science is the most recent example – some department heads are engaging in their own efforts. Deans will engage faculty to discussion approach to lobbying.

Linda Martin – must emphasize the importance of FAEIS data as a priority.

General Comment – need strong higher ed advocacy at USDA. How do we set priorities and how can USDA understand and carry the word forward if no one from within the agency is carrying the word forward at that level. We really need an advocate within the system. We need to do a better job articulating what our expected outcomes are in order to define the role that a person within USDA would play. A comprehensive education plan to fund the pipeline as NSF has, and which is assessable, is something we need to push.

Bring priorities input to Don through conference calls

As we appoint alternates to BAC – a succession plan should be part of it, and there may be a time for both to attend meetings together to provide some continuity.

**Impact Statements for Advocacy Purposes – Wendy Fink**

Packet from Cornerstone – passed out at the BAC meeting – advocacy packet. We need a packet for our own programs so that everyone can better understand the organization.

Strong recommend something like this for APS, share with CARET reps and members of congress. Would justify spending on specific lines in Farm Bill.

Louise Beaman – Must be able to provide impact information. This is critical to showing that funds are well spent and that constituents/states benefit. It would make it much easily to respond to questions about impact if we had specific examples.

Don Boggs – personalize it for each state so that impacts are relevant to the audience.

Joe Broder – how about hiring someone (maybe a grad student) to get this done.

Don Boggs – include survey from employers calling for a change in the way we educate, combined with the USDA employment report, and build case for where this needs to go in the future.

Louise Beaman – emphasize high employability of students with ag background

Need short turnaround time to be effective in the next budget cycle. An intern in APLU, working, with Wendy, could provide support needed to accomplish this.

Dale Gallenberg – We could highlight a few key examples, rather than trying to do a summary of all of the programs.

Louise Beaman – could use examples, but need to be able to tailor content to specific groups.

Don Boggs – will work to get some communication faculty/news group to assist in this effort and have a draft by the November meeting. Wendy will ask USDA if they have impact reports that will be useful.

**Policy Board of Directors’ Report – Linda Martin**

Budget and Advocay comm. And committee on advocacy and policy chairs are AHS members but aren’t voting members. Nearly all the COPS allow their standing committee members to vote. The suggest that standing committee members have a vote would make procedures more consistent across the groups.

The chairs, who are members of AHS, are appointed by the member of the Policy Board of Directors.

The Policy Board of Directors will discuss this and whether or not to bring this forward as a ballot item.

ACOP is generally supportive of voting rights by chairs, but in light of voting rights, it makes sense that their appointment follow a process that ensures that everyone has a say in who represents them like the elected representatives of the COPS and others.

**Alternates to BAC and CLP – Wendy Fink**

BAC alternate John Stier from U. of Tennessee

CLP alternate - Susan Sumner, Virginia Tech

2-year alternate position. They are already receiving communications and will engage with committees as they are able to be informed about proceedings.

Will need to change APS rules operation to identify role, term, election process.

Should include them on the ACOP and APS calls as well.

Don Boggs –motion to make a rules change to create positions for APS members elect to the CLP and BAC committees to serve two years in the alternate position a followed by two years in the full member position. Members will be elected during the regular November meeting.   
Nancy Irlbeck second.

Motion carries.

Will look to Wendy to update rules.

**CAST Decision – Wendy Fink**

Majority Vote is nay from ACOP, 8 nay, 2 yay, 1 abstention.

Feedback will be communicated to Policy Board of Directors by Linda Martin as ACOP rep.

Other COP groups may not have voted yet.

Marketing/communications group is going to look at need and funding models for CAST.

**AASCARR Report – Dale Gallenberg**

In FY 12 budget, got a 4.5 million approp for non-land-grant colleges. President’s budget took it out, the senate put it back, the house didn’t. Still working to have it included in FY 13 and 14 budget, continued support is appreciated. This is a competitive program in its entirety. We have some problems with the definition of non land grant. Some AASCARR schools receive some formula funds or are Hispanic college of ag, and that this would exclude them. Working to clarify definition public institution that offers 4 year program in ag or resources. Some schools with environmental science/management qualify and have come forward to apply. Decisions have yet to be made on projects.

NLGSA is the acronym that will be used in the farm bill. AASCARR is the professional organization of the member institutions.

Eligibility is an ongoing issue – thought to be black and white, but it has turned to out to be many shades of gray. How do you define public versus private? What is the public cost-share? First round of proposals will help define eligibility.

Annual AASCARR meeting coming up in October in River Falls, Wisconsin. Jennifer Fox from Chico State is the incoming president. Nancy Erhlbach will attend for ACOP.

Joe Broder – note on missing board reportees

Report on Board on Human Sciences sent by Jorge Atiles – copy attached

Board reports – if board liaisons don’t attend, we need to communicate to get someone who is able to attend and provide reports.

**Teaching Awards Webinar – Wendy Fink**

Teaching awards panel recommends holding a webinar to train both admin and faculty on how to apply for awards. Designed to increase number of applicants. Will be held some time in November, after APLU.

Deadline for applications is March 15.

Linda Martin – can we adjust the due date to avoid alleviate some conflicts. Wendy – will check, but there may be other USDA deadlines in play.

Suggestion came forward that new teachers be eligible for regional awards. Right now they can’t be in both categories. New teacher is a national award 1-7 years experience. Applications reviewed by separate committees.

**APS Annual Meeting Planning – Ted Whitwell**

No report

**Lead 21” & FSLI Reports – Laurie Kramer**

No formal report.

Linda Martin quick update for FLSI and LEAD 21 – both programs are going strong. Record number in LEAD 21, full in FSLI. Feedback is strong. FSLI at Cal Poly was very strong – excellent experience for attendees. Public private partnership component went out to meet with industry. Attendees got meet with a variety of leaders and see different leadership styles. Please continue to support those experiences for faculty.

Lead 21 is going well. Ahead of schedule paying back debt.

**AG\*IDEA – Don Boggs**

Ag IDEA has a cash flow. That’s the product of two grants that have turned into a sustainable program. Continued interest in new programs.

Accreditation process is hitting bumps with distance education. So easy for student to put together courses on a transcript from everywhere. They are asking questions about partnerships and collaborations. SACS is in the lead asking questions about student who are bringing in majority of credits from other institutions. International credits are a challenge – they aren’t accredited.

They want to make sure that individuals teaching have qualifications to teach the course, who the lead instructor is, who assigns the grades.

These questions will come up in other accrediting groups as well.

Joe Broder is planning to meet with SACS to discuss concerns and help them understand what AG IDEA is about.

Linda Martin – this might be an idea for the program committee. Many are facing these issues.

**Handout from Wendy – data from FAEIS**

**Break until tomorrow. Meeting will reconvene at 8 am.**

**ICA/APLU/CFAVM 2012 Biofuels Meeting –Ian Maw**

No report

**Future summer meeting/NACTA/APS Workshops – Nancy Irlbeck**

**Quite a few teaching symposia around the country, this may be affected attendance at the APLU National Academic Summit. How about merging that national academic summit with NACTA?**

Don Boggs – would NACTA be receptive to our input.

Dale – hosted NACTA. NACTA did all the planning and was the sole organizer this year.

Linda – program committee looks at past topics, evaluate regional/national interest, but the hosting school has primary control over focus of the event.

Wendy – attendance is affected by topic – sometimes mostly APS, sometimes a larger audience.

Don B. How about sponsoring an afternoon session during NACTA toward softskills development.

Joe – almost need two years of a cycle to get information out and

Linda – maybe the workshop can highlight people who have successfully implemented strategies in the classroom based on the theoretical things we have talked about.

Rather than merging events completely, APS would have an afternoon session.

Virginia Tech is hosting NACTA next year.

Regional Meetings are focusing on staff development in 2013 and are working to combine efforts.

Northcentral will open their spring 2013 meeting to anyone interested in the topic. If multiple regions are included, location is important to facilitate travel.

Jt. Mtg between APS Southern Region and ESS Southern Region

September meeting in Atlanta 9/18 to 9/19 Noon to noon, fly in meeting. Survey has been sent out. Topics received. Undergrad research, training grad students, maintaining high cost training and research facilities, synergies between teaching and research, safety and liability, funding grad students, admission requirements. Members from other regions might be able attend.

Ken – another possible topic – how to support cost of field laboratories. Some programs have eliminated training in some areas due to costs associated with maintaining filed laboratories.

Final agenda will be forthcoming.

**General question to the group:**

Don Boggs – does anyone have a metric for measuring quality of undergraduate research. Ken – through honors program. Linda – Ohio State now has degree with research distinction. Ken – senior survey includes a question about research – students self report a variety of experiences including research. Joe – Georgia has course designations S – service learning, I – international, they are working to have R – a research intensive course. Good question to ask at the joint meeting in September.

**New Initiatives**

         **National Recruitment?**

Should there be a national recruitment campaign for agriculture? What other groups could be out there where we could introduce careers in Ag related fields to a wider audience. E.G. merit badges for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

In North Carolina, 4H is working with students to increase standardized test scores to increase competitiveness of students in admissions. First group of young people have gone through process, still awaiting results. Princeton review is training 4H leaders to hold classes. Reports will be presented at NACTA.

ACT lists Ag as a tech degree – that needs to be changed. Nacy will draft a letter expressing concern about designation and call for a change. Drat will be shared with ACOP for review. Ian will send letter from APLU to ACT calling for the change.

Don Boggs – go back to first summit and review notes, pull out the potential action items. Wendy has a written summary. That would inform where to go with future recruitment efforts. Linda is willing to go through the notes to identify topics of interest.

Linda – attendees at spring meeting could identify issues/topics that they encounter in recruitment.

Don Boggs – use ACOP conference call to discuss this further.

         **Transdisciplinary?**

Need to provide education that crosses all boundaries, not just bringing together two silos. Bring together supporting science, social science, various ag sciences. Colorado State is starting several news degrees with this emphasis – Urban Agriculture.

Ken – how do you get students to upper level courses and not in a series of intro/survey courses.

Joe - How do you administer interdisciplinary majors

Ken – resource centered management, funds flow with student credits hours. NCState uses professional advisors in large multi-college majors.

Nancy – Colorado State is investing in academic support coordinators.

Don Boggs – need to get back to an action plan on all the good things we have done.

Ken – we all do things at our institutions, but we don’t have a clearinghouse of information about what works, that can be accessed by others.

Linda – We should have a position statement for the accrediting body and others.

Wendy – dropped the industry component this year and want to keep that going in the future.

**Course equivalents from overseas?**

International Articulation Agreements

Difficulty transferring courses because institutions aren’t accredited in US.

**Principles of Partnership Draft**

Ken – Important to re-affirm that students should have access to an education in agriculture.

Ian – This is a first step to establish the principles.

Need an endorsement of this principle.

Ken – motion to endorse the draft statement – principles of partnership.

Second – Don Boggs

Motion Carries. Endorsement will be carried back verbally by Ken.

**Action items**

* Don Boggs will do one page impact statement for advocacy
* Linda Martin will contact Marcos about spring 2013 northcentral meeting
* Nancy will draft letter to Ian regarding ACT
* Joe will draft letter to accrediting bodies that summarizes our position on Ag IDEA and other issues we would like them to consider.
* Ian and Wendy will talk to Human Science division about rep
* Wendy will talk to Eric Young about how many additional people can attend September flying meeting in Atlanta
* Wendy will contact Susan Sumner about possible joint sponsoring NACTA or holding an afternoon session during NACTA
* Ken will take ACOP endorsement of partnership principles back to group.
* Don Boggs – compile list of all faculty who have left APS in the past year, collect nominations for secretary.
* Anne will get minutes out to the group.
* **Add an agenda item for next time to report on the action steps from this meeting.**

**Motion to adjourn!**

ACOP meets again on Saturday at National APLU Meeting in Denver