

## Southern Academic Program Section Meeting

Friday April 16, 2021

12:00 – 1:00 EST / 11:00 – 12:00 CST

Attending: Nina Bennett, Bill Richardson, Al Wysocki, Amy Wright, Jean Bertrand, Carmen Agouridis, Scott Willard, Susan Sumner, Josef Broder, Wendy Fink, M. Ray McKinnie, Ralph Noble, Ramble Ankumah, Dr. Alston, Elaine Turner

Minutes of 22 February 2021 were approved as distributed.

Updates from APLU/APS were provided by staff.

- 35 nominations USDA teaching awrds. 9 regional from South, 12 early career, and the rest for teaching and student engagement. Decisions expected by early June.
- APS peer coaching event May 5 3:30-9 pm. Topic will be “forward strategic thinking”. Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvC-mrqD4tHdJsl0eardY4K2XZRtJQMx4o>
- Federal appropriations for higher education-likely to go to continuing resolution (CR) as administration focuses on infrastructure, reducing time to discuss other items.

APS website was discussed. Directory at <https://www.aplu.org/members/commissions/food-environment-and-renewable-resources/board-on-agriculture-assembly/academic-programs-section/APS-Directory>.

Anyone not included can send Tara a picture at [twestington@aplu.org](mailto:twestington@aplu.org)

Each region will have it's own webpage. Will include meeting minutes and list of officers. Nothing confidential. Let Tara know what we'd like posted.

Volunteers were requested to review Innovative teaching award nominees. Amy, Susan and Joe volunteered.

The 2022 Southern Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) joint APS and Extension meeting (16-19 May in College Station, TX) was discussed. Participants from today's meeting selected their top two topics for an APS-AES discussion.

- **Do your academic program offices cover both undergraduate and graduate students or does it only cover undergraduate students?**
  - UAPB SAFHS has both UG and GR programs, in our Aquaculture/Fisheries and Ag program. Our Human Sciences program does not have GR programs.
  - TN: Undergraduate and Graduate
  - Miss State – Both
  - UK – both
  - VT – both
  - UF – both
  - Auburn – undergrad only
  - FVSU has both academic in (CAFST)
  - Virginia State University - Undergraduate only

- **Which two agenda items below interest S-APS the most for a joint discussion with S-AES (Ag Experiment Station) for the Southern Mini-land-grant meeting next year?**

S-APS - Thursday, May 19, 2022, 9:00-10:00 am

Best practice session that engages the academic programs leaders:

building undergraduate pipelines to graduate school

undergraduate research

employability skills for graduate students

graduate student recruitment

sustainable funding for graduate students and stipend competitiveness

Results:

- TN top 2: sustainable funding for grad students and stipend competitiveness; graduate student recruitment
- UK: undergraduate research; sustainable funding for graduate students and stipend competitiveness
- VT: Building undergraduate pipeline to graduate school, undergraduate research
- UAPB: UG research and (2) building UG pipelines to graduate school (particularly for underrepresented students)
- Auburn: undergraduate research and UG pipeline to grad school. My office only deals with undergraduates. Graduate programs are under the Associate Dean from Research/Extension Station Director
- UGA: Building undergrad pipelines, employability skills for grad students, undergrad research
- Clemson: Topics with S-AES: undergrad research, employability skills for grad students. Topics with AES and Ext groups: recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, mentoring faculty and students
- Virginia State University: Another topic of interest is valued added or credential stacking for undergraduates.
- UK: We are pursuing credential stacking options with badges to certificates at UK. I would be interested in learning more from others.

Possible topics for discussion with the AES, APS, and Extension were reviewed. Undergraduate student internships with Extension was identified as an additional topic, while recruitment of diverse faculty was modified to include "retention" bringing the total to the following:

- Recruitment **and retention** of diverse faculty
- Mentoring of all students and faculty
- Non-credit courses (academic vs Extension; use of content across both lines) and conversion to academic certificates
- Low and under-enrolled programs –partnering with industry to offer programs to their employees
- Advancement and philanthropy
- International student recruitment
- **UG internships with Extension**

Discussion of training or continuing education geared to workforce development occurred, particularly online pedagogy, how it integrates with academic credentials, and how academic programs should or could work with Extension.

Determined to hold another meeting of our group in June. Possible topic will be financial and accreditation issues related to stackable credentials and academic degrees, certificates, or other programs.

Action items

John and others develop and conduct a survey on funding and accreditation for stackable credentials

Adjourned 1:03 pm

DRAFT