



AGENDA

BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (EDT)
February 16, 2021

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Eddie Gouge is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: BAC Zoom Teleconference
Time: February 16, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 916 6605 8406
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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/aemrfacTvH>

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- I. Call to Order (Patterson)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Patterson)
- IV. FY 2022 Appropriations (Cornerstone)
 - a. Update
 - b. Unified Ask – 8%
 - c. Appropriations Requests
- V. COVID-19 (Cornerstone)
- VI. Biden Administration Transition (Patterson/Cornerstone/Steele)
 - a. Vilsack confirmation
- VII. Infrastructure (Steele)

- VIII. Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance (Steele/Cornerstone)
- IX. Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020 (Steele)
- X. Multicultural Scholars proposal (Patterson/Cornerstone)
- XI. CGA Update (Peterson) |
- XII. APLU Update (Steele)
- XIII. BAA/Policy Board of Directors Update (Steele)
- XIV. Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting Update (Gouge/Patterson)
- XV. Other Business
 - a. BAA/Policy Board Update (Steele)

Call to Order and Roll Call

BAC Chairman Paul M. Patterson called the meeting to order and asked Eddie Gouge to call the roll. The following individuals participated in the conference call:

Paul M. Patterson (*Chair*), *Auburn University*
Michael J. Boehm (*Advocacy Chair*), *University of Nebraska System*
Jon C. Boren (*CES*), *New Mexico State University*
Deanna Behring (*IAS*), *The Pennsylvania State University*
M. Ray McKinnie (*1890 Extension*), *Virginia State University*
Dyremple B. Marsh (*1890 Research*), *Delaware State University*;
John L. Phillips (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Patrese Atine (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Usman Adamu (*Insular/Territories*), *University of the Virgin Islands*
Brian Hardin (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2022-2023*), *Alabama*
Jo Britt-Rankin (*Board on Human Sciences*), *University of Missouri*
Linda M. Nagel (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*
Thomas G. Coon (*BAAPBD*), *Oklahoma State University*
Susan K. Peterson (*CGA*), *Kansas State University*
Douglas L. Steele, *APLU*
Eddie G. Gouge, *APLU*
Caroline C. Henney, *APLU*
Wendy Fink, *APLU*
Caron Gala, *APLU*
Floencia Drumwright, *APLU*
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
Albert E. Essel, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
Jeffrey S. Jacobsen, *North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
Jim Richards *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Will Todd, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting: **Kelly F. Millenbah** (*APS*), *Michigan State University*; **Glenda Humiston** (*ESS*), *University of California Systemwide*; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Erik J. Porfeli** (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*; **Carolyn J. Henry** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*; **Marshall Stewart**, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*); **Hunt Shipman**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Minutes

The BAC minutes from January 19, 2021, as distributed, were approved.

Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations' and COVID-19 Update

Chairman Patterson provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget recommendations – originally, the BAC had agreed to an increase of 5% in the core programs but that was raised to 8% to all core programs (including the 1994 institutions) in an electronic vote on February 10, 2021

Cornerstone Government Affairs provided the following update:

- it is expected that the Administration will submit a “skinny” budget to Congress in late April or early May that will contain no programmatic requests
- there will be substantive changes in the budget after the transition
- internal deadlines in Congressional offices have been compiled and are available
- everyone was encouraged to use land-grant.org as a resource
- an update from Cornerstone Government Affairs was distributed last week and action on the floor of the House is expected this week and the following week in the Senate
- the latest COVID-19 relief bill is moving through Congress and the current bill in the House is a pre-conference package

Biden Administration Transition

Cornerstone Government Affairs reported:

- it is hoped that Secretary-designate Tom Vilsack will be confirmed by the Senate within the next week and that will lead to other nominations and a budget proposal

Doug Steele indicated that APLU was staying connected with USDA and Carrie Castille, the new Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Infrastructure Proposal

The following was reported on this item –

- there have been a couple of opportunities to share the idea with various groups – including the American Farm Bureau Federation, Tri Societies, and the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) – and the response has been favorable
- the proposal for \$11.5 billion over five years needs a champion
- the release of the Gordian report is expected on March 4, 2021
 - a communications tool kit will be released one week before the March 4, 2021 release
 - Chairman Patterson requested that the communications tool kit be shared with the Board on Agriculture Assembly and CARET

- the BAC was encouraged to follow up on this with their local Farm Bureaus and federal relations staff
- the study indicates that 69% of the agricultural facilities at our institutions are at the end of life service and we need to have the right facilities to do the research

Food and Ag Climate Alliance

Doug Steele reported that APLU’s Board on Agriculture Assembly had joined the [Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance](#) and –

- the leadership of the BAA met with Randy Russell and was asked to join
- it was important for the land-grant university system to be involved with this effort
- the BAA was asked and agreed to become a Steering Committee member of this group; this will allow us to have place our members on the working groups of the organization
- Doug Steele was elected as co-chair of the research group
- the organization will have six (6) focus areas –
 - Providing voluntary, incentive-based tools for farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to maximize the sequestration of carbon and the reduction of other greenhouse gas emissions, as well as increase the resilience of the land.
 - Supporting the development and oversight of private sector markets for GHG credits.
 - Promoting public and private sector tools to incentivize farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to prioritize and scale climate-smart practices.
 - Offering incentives for farmers to reduce energy consumption, increase use of on-farm renewable energy, and make continued progress toward reducing the lifecycle GHG emissions of agriculture- and forestry-based renewable energy.
 - Streamlining consumer-facing packaging and implementing a public-private-partnership to reduce the GHG impact of food waste and loss within the food value chain.
 - Increasing federal investment in agriculture, forestry and food-related research substantially and continuously.

Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020

Doug Steele indicated that this proposal has no money attached to it but is about who provides the credentials, and this is a proposal to which the land-grant system should pay attention.

Jim Richards stated that this will be a baseline for whatever is enacted.

Multicultural Scholars

The following points were made:

- APS and Cornerstone Government Affairs are in the process of developing a one-pager on this program
- meetings will be set up by Caron Gala after the Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting is concluded to see if AHS in the “blessed” states will carry the proposal forward

- Chairman Patterson recommended that CARET and AHS take this proposal forward as part of their “unified” ask.

CGA Update

Sue Peterson indicated that the APLU Council on Government Affairs would be meeting with NIFA Director Carrie Castille and invited the BAC members to join that meeting. She also indicated that she and Caron Gala would be scheduling appointments with House and Senate staffers after the Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting.

APLU Update

Nothing was reported.

Policy Board of Directors’ Update

Doug Steele reported –

- the Policy Board of Directors (PBD) would meet on Friday to consider –
 - the Fiscal Year 2022 “unified ask” recommendations
 - the infrastructure proposal
 - the proposal relating to the multicultural scholars
 - the nominations for Chair-elect of the PBD
 - potential changes to the BAA *Rules of Operation* to add the Communications and Marketing Committee as a standing committee of the BAA
 - creating and distributing a bid for the 2022-2024 advocacy contract for the BAA
 - the path forward for the NIFA/APLU working group

Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting

The group was reminded that the 2021 Joint CARET/AHS Virtual Meeting would begin on Friday, February 26, 2021 and were asked to schedule their Hill visits on March 3-4, 2021. They also were reminded of the January webinar that provided pointers on scheduling virtual Hill visits.

Other Business

The BAC approved a motion to ask the BAA Policy Board of Directors to sign the [letter](#) (forwarded to the BAC members earlier by Eddie Gouge) from SoAR to Secretary Vilsack in support agricultural research and science. The motion was made by Mike Boehm and seconded by Jon Boren.

Adjournment

Chairman Patterson adjourned the BAC meeting at 5:13 p.m. (EST).