



AGENDA

**BUDGET AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
BOARD ON AGRICULTURE ASSEMBLY**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m. (EST)
January 19, 2021**

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CALL IN INSTRUCTIONS

Topic: BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee Meeting

Time: January 19, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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- I. Call to Order (Patterson)
- II. Roll Call (Gouge)
- III. Approval of Minutes (Patterson)
- IV. FY 2021 Appropriations Recap (Cornerstone)
- V. COVID-19 and FY 2022 Appropriations Update (Cornerstone)
 - I. Timeline
 - II. Advocacy Efforts
- VI. 117th Congress – Committee Leadership/Champions (Cornerstone)
- VII. Biden Administration Priorities (Cornerstone)
- VIII. Infrastructure (Humiston)
- X. CGA Update (Peterson)
- X. APLU Update (Steele)
- XI. Other Business

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*
Kelly F. Millenbah (*APS*), *North Michigan State University*
Jon C. Boren (*CES*), *New Mexico State University*
Glenda Humiston (*ESS*), *University of California Systemwide*
Deanna Behring (*IAS*), *The Pennsylvania State University*
M. Ray McKinnie (*1890 Extension*), *Virginia State University*
John L. Phillips (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Patrese Atine (*1994 Institutions*), *American Indian Higher Education Consortium*
Brian Hardin (*CARET – Fiscal Years 2022-2023*), *Alabama*
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*
Florencia Drumwright, *APLU*
Alton Thompson, *Association of Research Directors (1890)*
Albert E. Essel, *Association of Extension Administrators (1890)*
Kevin Cain (*Veterinary Medicine*), *Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
Hunt Shipman, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Jim Richards *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Vernie Hubert, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*
Maggie Earle, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

The following committee members/staff were unable to participate in the meeting: **Dyremple B. Marsh** (*1890 Research*), *Delaware State University*; **Karen L. Jones** (*Non-Land-Grants/NARRU*), *Southern Illinois University at Carbondale*; **Usman Adamu** (*Insular/Territories*), *University of the Virgin Islands*; **Erik J. Porfeli** (*Board on Human Sciences*), *The Ohio State University*; **Carolyn J. Henry** (*Veterinary Medicine*), *University of Missouri-Columbia*; **Linda M. Nagel** (*Forestry Resources*), *Colorado State University*; **Marshall Stewart**, (*BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy*); **Jeffrey S. Jacobsen**, *North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors*; and, **Will Todd**, *Cornerstone Government Affairs*.

Matt Paul of Cornerstone Government Affairs was a guest at the meeting.

Agenda

The agenda was approved but reordered due to some scheduling conflicts.

Minutes

The BAC minutes from December 15, 2020, as distributed, were approved.

COVID-19 and Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations' Update

Cornerstone Government Affairs provided the following update:

- Congress will complete the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations process on December 21, 2020 after several short-term continuing resolutions
- the proposal also will include \$900 billion in COVID-19 relief
- any legislation not acted upon by the end of the 116th Congress will expire and need to be re-introduced in the 117th Congress
- the BAC received increases in six of its nine core programs – for more information and details, see this [report](#) from Cornerstone Government Affairs
- it appears the budget from the Biden Administration will be delivered in late March or early April, and the land-grant university system needs to start its advocacy process immediately since the House and Senate offices still have their deadlines for submitting requests
- Cornerstone Government Affairs is working on the proposal from the Academic Programs Section and there are still a lot of questions about the infrastructure proposal
- the BAC and the Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP) will need to discuss some of the issues on the infrastructure proposal and have the Policy Board of Directors decide
- the BAC will get the Fiscal Year 2022 budget recommendations ready in the one pager and those recommendations will be forwarded to the Policy Board of Directors
- the Policy Board of Directors ratified the core priorities and provisional numbers in December but the BAC will need to plug in the actual recommendations for Fiscal Year 2022; once the final numbers are plugged in and the BAC approves the one-pager, it (along with the APS and infrastructure proposals) will go to the Policy Board of Directors for approval

Chairman Patterson indicated that the BAC would see the final draft of the one-pager in February and approve the document. It would then be shared with the Policy Board of Directors for approval.

Infrastructure Proposal

Glenda Humiston briefed the BAC on the infrastructure proposal and made the following comments –

- there was extensive discussion about the proposal last week and one of the areas of discussion was how the proposal fit within the existing language at the U. S. Department of Agriculture
- the proposal is \$11.5 billion and the Experiment Station directors want to target key voices so they will be familiar with the proposal
- a design strategy to inform key decisionmakers and stakeholders was approved in concept in the Spring of 2020 by the BAC and Policy Board of Directors (the PBD was fully

supportive of the \$8.4 billion effort and approved the proposal, so the actual “ask” is the only change)

- Eddie Gouge was asked to forward the infrastructure materials to the BAC following today’s BAC call
- the language of the proposal is broad enough and the \$11.5 billion might be considered under the Ag Facilities Act
- the Experiment Station Section will be conducting webinars with other partners

Chairman Patterson indicated that whatever vehicle is used, it needs to be discussed and approved by the BAC. He also indicated that once the BAC has decided on this, the BAC and CLP would ask Cornerstone Government Affairs to distribute a call to action to the land-grant university system.

117TH Congress

Cornerstone Government Affairs made the following comments:

- negotiations are still underway to develop a power-sharing agreement between the Democrats and Republicans in the United States Senate
- it is likely that Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) will chair the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Senator John N. Boozman (R-AR) will be the Ranking Member
- Senator Jeff A. Merkley (D-OR) likely will become chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and Senator John H. Hoeven (R-ND) likely will become the Ranking Member
- Congressman David Scott (D-GA-13) may become the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Congressman Glen Thompson (R-PA-15) the Ranking Member
- it is likely that Congressman Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2) will remain chairman of the House Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies (House Committee on Appropriations) and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE-1) the Ranking Member
- committee memberships will be announced in the very near future

USDA and the Biden Administration

Matt Paul of Cornerstone Government Affairs made the following observations about the priorities for USDA Secretary-designate Tom Vilsack–

- COVID-19 relief and assisting in the pandemic effort through food and nutrition programs and marshalling resources to combat hunger
- having USDA play a larger role in climate mitigation – there are a number of intersections in this area
- market access and bringing greater stability in the area of trade
- there will be a focus on equity and inclusion through all areas
- rural America will be a major focus of the Biden Administration

Paul indicated that he would be surprised if the new USDA Secretary would move the National Institute of Food and Agriculture back to DC. It was indicated that the USDA Secretary might move several NIFA positions back to the DC area.

CGA Update

Sue Peterson indicated that the APLU Council on Government Affairs would be assisting the BAC and BAA once the Fiscal Year 2022 budget recommendations had gone through the approval process and that she would be sharing Matt Paul's comments with her CGA colleagues.

Academic Program Section Proposal

Kelly Millenbah stated that the Academic Program Section was working with Cornerstone Government Affairs on their [proposal](#) (see website) and was looking for a path forward on a targeted approach.

Other Business

Doug Steele indicated there would be a *FOCUS* (FANR newsletter) update going out next week.

Chairman Patterson asked the BAC to watch for the one-pager and "call to action" from Cornerstone Government Affairs.

Adjournment

Chairman Patterson adjourned the BAC meeting at 5:16 p.m. (EST)