

*Minutes/Notes*  
**Administrative Heads Section**  
**The Westin Alexandria**  
**Alexandria, VA**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**March 7, 2017**

Meeting Attendees: Not Recorded!

M. Ray McKinnie, AHS Secretary, was not in attendance at the section meeting due to previously planned “Hill Visits”. In his absence, he asked Dr. Alton Thompson, ARD Executive Director, to fill in for him and to take notes of the meeting’s discussions.

Cathann Kress, AHS Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The agenda was approved as printed and the minutes of the November 14, 2016 in Austin, TX was also approved.

Report of the AHS Nominating Committee – Louis E. Swanson

- Elect a Secretary for AHS for the remainder of 2017 (the former AHS Secretary from the Southern Region – Alan Grant – moved into the Chair-Elect position with the retirement of Greg Weidemann) and this individual will move into the AHS Chair-Elect position at the end of the 2017 APLU Annual Meeting. This individual will need to come from the 1890 Region.
- AHS also will need to elect an AHS Secretary for 2018 who will serve for 2018 and then move into the Chair-Elect position at the conclusion of the APLU Annual Meeting in 2018. The individual elected as the 2018 AHS Secretary Meeting should come from the Western Region.

AHS Chair Report – Cathann A. Kress

No written notes of report! Have requested a written recap from Chair.

## **Standing Reports**

BAA Policy Board of Directors – Jay T. Akridge

- The BAA PBD met in Austin, TX on November 15, 2016 in conjunction with the APLU Annual Meeting and held a conference call on February 22, 2017.
- R. Elaine Turner was elected as the Vice Chair and Cindy L. Akers as Secretary
- The FY 2017 Budget for the BAA was approved and the FY 2017 CARET budget approved as well.
- The consulting and advocacy contracts with Cornerstone Government Affairs have been renewed.
- The Academic Programs Section is still working on the student/faculty retention and diversity initiative.
- The reporting forms used by the PBD are being revised.

- Discussion is occurring whether or not to make the AHS-AES-CES Communications and Marketing Committee a standing committee of the BAA
- The PBD is in receipt of a report on the “public-value statement” from Wendy Fink, APLU, and noted that the recommendation had been submitted to kglobal for review.
- Approved the proposed changes to CARET’s Rules of Operation, Strategic Plan, and guidelines for Lifetime of Service to CARET award

BAA Budget and Advocacy Committee Report– Alan L. Grant

- The BAA PBD unanimously approved the “one ask” approach for competitive and capacity federal funding increases on February 22, 2017, following input from each of the five regions. The “one-ask” is the consolidation of priorities/programs which include Hatch, Smith-Lever, Evans-Allen, 1890 Extension, McIntire-Stennis and AFRI. The logistics are still being worked out to polish the one-pager (back and front) summarizing the \$200 million increase.
- There will be further discussion and consideration of adjusting the proportional distribution of the funds in FY 19 that was recommended by the 1890 institutions
- The current Continuing Resolution ends April 28<sup>th</sup>. There will likely be some kind of combination of appropriations bills released after that.
- For FY18, the President’s staff will be releasing a budget outline sometime during the middle of this month. This is earlier than expected and a good sign. Some agency budget meetings have already started for the less-controversial items.

BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy – Gregory A. Bohach

- The CLP Committee met with Cornerstone Government Affairs in Washington, DC on October 3-4, 2016 to review and recommend/not recommend 160 proposals for continued consideration to be included in the Farm Bill, expected in 2018.
- There is a need to keep the consolidation discussion and the group’s actual “one ask” separate as the group moves forward.
- Everyone in the system needs to be educated and/or kept informed on how the consolidation process is moving forward.

APLU – Ian L. Maw

No notes written notes of report!

CARET – Orlando F. McMeans

- The CARET representatives should be used to advocate/promote the “one ask,” particularly in states where their congressional representatives are in important leadership positions or on critical committees.
- Per conversation among the CARET Executive Committee, there is a need for more communication between CARET and AHS.
- As requested by the CARET Executive Committee, AHS had significant input into the CARET Strategic Plan.

- CARET delegates commended on their commitment and great work to advocate for additional federal funding for the national land-grant system

Update on the capacity funding study – Simon Tripp

No written notes of report!

Opportunity for Colleges of Agriculture to work with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) – Blake Bextine, Program Manager, Biological Technologies, Office, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

No written notes of report!

Obtaining data to present an accurate picture of total funding for Colleges of Agriculture – Ian L. Maw

No written notes of report!

Futuring Process at APLU and How It Differs from the Engagement Effort – Ian L. Maw

No written notes of report!

Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People Implementation – Richard Mertens

- In December 2015, APLU issued its *Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People* final report.
- This report sufficiently detailed five programmatic priorities and accompanying goals and objectives and called for collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach to research and education/outreach efforts across agriculture, food, nutrition and health care systems to make a positive difference on human health and chronic diseases
- In 2016, the Healthy Food Systems, Healthy People formed an 16 –member implementation team to develop strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of this report, including recommending a budget
- Dr. Mertens served as Chair
- A final report of the Implementation was issued on February 17, 2017
- The Implementation Team’s recommendations were structured to contribute to achieve the goals and objectives over time.
- Briefly, the Implementation Actions included (1) Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships; (2) Support Federal Microbiome Research; (3) Encourage Federal Funding Proposals to Support HFSHP goals; (4) Expand CDC’s role High Obesity Rate Counties Program; and (5) Expand the Pipeline of Students and Professionals for Integrated Healthy Food Systems Programs
- In addition to the FY 2016 baseline federal funding of about \$770 million, an estimated \$130 million additional federal and non-federal funds per year
- Finally, the Implementation Team recommended six steps in the near-term to help achieve these goals:
  - Organize and lead briefings of government, private sector and non-profit stakeholders to inform these stakeholders and potential partners of HFSHP goals, objectives and proposals;

- Support HFSHP goals as part of the federal government’s efforts to better understand the complex interrelationships of the food-human-gut microbiome ecosystem and their role in promoting human health;
- Consider legislative proposals to support HFSHP goals and monitor congressional and Executive Branch actions that support or hinder HFSHP goals;
- Organize a national workshop and/themed regional workshops for HFSHP thought-leaders and stakeholders/partners to provide strategic support and access to experts, brainstorm barriers to broader adoption and acceptance of HFSHP goals, exchange best practices and discuss how to work together to achieve HFSHP goals;
- Inform Congressional Members and Committees of the goals/objectives and benefits of the HFSHP initiative and specific funding and authorizing legislation provision that support HFSHP goals; and
- Monitor and report to the BAA/BoHS progress toward achieving HSFHP goals.

Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative – Ian L. Maw

Progress continues to be made on this initiative and a strategy/approach is being developed to have a university with a strong agricultural program or strong veterinary school or strong public health program to host this Institute on its campus. Rather than to issue an RFP, the initial thoughts are to bring the interested groups to Washington to discuss and reach an agreement on the best approach. The Institute’s ability to attract strategic partnerships will be critically important to the success of the ARI.

Infrastructure Strategy Committee – Thomas G. Coon

- The discussion centered on whether the best strategy would be to submit this \$10 million request as part of the 2018 Farm Bill or as a separate Infrastructure Bill.
- The 2015 APLU study of the capital infrastructure and deferred maintenance challenges at U.S. schools of agriculture (Sightlines report) formed a sound basis for an argument to invest in agricultural research infrastructure at U.S. public institutions. An APLU task force recommended several key steps to implement changes that would address research infrastructure needs. This strategy aligns well with federal efforts to invest in America’s infrastructure as a means to strengthen economic growth.
- The Administration’s infrastructure initiative remains undefined, and it is likely to gain more structure as Congress becomes involved in developing the initiative. With uncertainty about how the infrastructure initiative is being developed, it seems prudent to remain engaged with Congressional members and Administration officials (particularly USDA Secretary -- former Governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue is the nominee) so as to articulate the relevance of agricultural research infrastructure to a federal initiative on infrastructure investment.
- A one-pager that outlines the needs and recommendations has been developed.

- It is encouraging that the American Farm Bureau Federation has included agricultural research infrastructure as a priority in the Rebuild Rural Coalition, led by the Farm Credit Council. Cornerstone is working with the Rebuild Rural Coalition as well as directly with Congress to build bipartisan support for investing in agricultural research infrastructure.
- There are several themes evident in administration and congressional discussions about the infrastructure initiative that align well with the APLU infrastructure strategy, including
  - An emphasis on public-private partnerships – these can take a variety of different forms, ranging from private investment in and construction of facilities that are then leased back to public institutions, to direct gifts of private funds to universities to help finance university construction.
  - Leveraging federal funds with university, state and private funds – administration officials favor federal funds that generate investment from other parties.
  - “Shovel-ready” seems to be a theme – this is a challenge for university policies and procedures, but it would seem prudent to have your most important projects at least in the planning stages with initial efforts to identify potential funders.
  - Addressing regional and national needs – it is likely that federal funds will go preferentially to those facilities that will help to address regional or national needs more than local priorities.
- We need to inform our Congressional delegation of the APLU Infrastructure study and strategy, including your institution’s infrastructure needs

Budget/Assessments Update – Ian L. Maw

There was nothing noteworthy to report in terms of activity during the months of January or February. All institutions are encouraged pay their assessment; no significant issues are anticipated.

Communications and Marketing – Beverly R. Durgan

No additional information was given. As indicated in the previous sessions, the CMC ramp up its efforts on the messaging for the “Call for Action” relative to the \$200 million “one-ask” budget increase.

APLU Activity with Canadian and Mexican Institutions – Ian L. Maw

Eddie G. Gouge

APLU is moving quite aggressively to become a North American association by signing MOUs with Ministries of Agriculture in Canada and Mexico. The Joint COPS meeting will be held in Calgary, Canada in July 2017 and is being planned for Guadalajara, Mexico in July 2018. The Food-Water-Energy nexus is an important topic for all three countries as well as global food security and climate change. Preliminary planning for the plenary sessions at 2017 Joint COPS meeting includes a focus on the “North American Zone of Knowledge” with presentations by administrators and faculty from the

University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, the University of Guadalajara and selected U.S. universities and agencies.

**Meeting Adjourned!**

Notes compiled and submitted by:

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Forwarded by:

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