

Item: ED Report

Presenter: Eric Young

Background Information:

2011/12 SAAESD Activities (not reported elsewhere on the agenda)

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

The five Gulf coast states AES's and CES's membership in GOMA was accepted formally in March, 2011, and currently over 45 research and extension faculty are part of GOMA's six Priority Issue Teams. Reuben Moore and Paul Coreil are our representatives on the Federal Workgroup, with Ron Brown and I as alternates. I attended the GOMA All-Hands conference in New Orleans, Aug 2-4, and the Gulf of Mexico Summit in December, hosted jointly by GOMA and the Hypoxia Task Force.

Interstate Position and Facility Sharing

Information from each AES was gathered last summer on the most pressing research expertise and major facility needs to help facilitate a more in-depth discussion on inter-institutional collaboration and sharing resources across state lines. A spreadsheet compilation of information gathered in the following three areas was sent to all directors.

- Expertise Needs - discipline, specialty area, and commodity focus or research subject (Ex. plant pathology; bacterial diseases & host/pathogen interaction; vegetable crops)
- Major Facility Needs - type, brief description of use, and time frame (Ex. fungal pathogen containment greenhouse; USDA-APHIS-PPQ certified with supplemental lighting for germplasm disease screening; continuous access May thru September)
- Major Facilities Available - type, brief description, and time frame (Ex. feed mill; equipment includes: hammer, roller, & pellet mills, counter flow cooler, pellet screener, bagger, etc; use scheduled quarterly)

A session was held at the fall meeting to facilitate initiating discussions among directors on specific collaborations within the region.

Leadership SERA

The Leadership SERA (SERA-42) was approved for two years on Oct 1, 2010, so it is up for renewal this fall. I am the research administrative advisor for this project, along with the extension AA, Tim Cross, and academic programs AA, Ken Esbenshade. The Core Planning Group has had numerous conference calls and one face-to-face meeting so far to discuss how to proceed with the project's objectives. SERA-42 will be hosting its first formal project meeting on November 10, prior to the APLU Annual Conference in Denver. They plan to have a keynote speaker and panel on the topic "future vision of food systems, engaging faculty, and developing a food systems culture", with follow-up leadership discussions on interpersonal relations, how to engage faculty, and breaking down academic and other silos. Also, initial planning will be done to establish an eXtension community of practice on leadership and form a committee to develop curriculum for leadership principles for graduate students.

Financial and Personnel Database

The new SAAESD financial and personnel database was completed by Texas AgriLife IT last December and made available for data entry. A major reprogramming effort resulted in a much more user-friendly and functional database than what was previously in place. The current database allows numerous comparisons of all data parameters in multiple forms of output, including graphic. Data from 2010/11 is being entered now with a deadline of April 1, subsequent year's data entry deadline will be January 1. The database parameters include statistics on funding from federal and state appropriations, grants, contracts, and other sources and FTE's of faculty, staff, and administration.

SAAESD Assignments

NRSP-8, National Animal Genome Research Program, Administrative Advisor

S-1043, Economic Impacts of International Trade and Domestic Policies on Southern Agriculture, Administrative Advisor

SCC-83, Quantifying the Linkages between Soil Health, Organic Farming and Food, Administrative Advisor

SERA-42, Enhancement of Leadership Capacity in the Food Systems through Coalition Development

AC-6, Horticulture, Administrative Advisor

AC-13, Forestry, Administrative Advisor

SERA Review Committee

Joint Cotton Breeding Advisory Committee, Tecoman Winter Nursery Steering Committee, and Cotton Winter Nursery Executive Committee

Southern Region IPM Center Steering Committee

Southern Region Water Quality Program Advisory Committee

Southeast Agriculture and Forestry Energy Resources Alliance (SAFER) Advisory Council

T-STAR Caribbean Basin Advisory Group

Liaison to the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors

Liaison to the Association of 1890 Research Directors

2011/12 ESCOP Activities

BAA Policy Board of Directors

As support ED for the ESCOP PBD member, I have been involved with the System Integration Task Force. This group worked on a number of tasks over the past four years, including organizing the biannual New Deans, Directors, Administrator, and Program Leaders Orientation Workshop, facilitating conversations between the leaders of the Land-Grant System's two leadership programs, FSLI and LEAD-21, and setting up the POW/Annual Report Review Panel for NIFA. The formal Task Force was disbanded at the PBD meeting last Fall and instead the PBD will assign individual tasks in the future to ad hoc groups formed specifically for that task. I will continue to support these groups as they are formed.

REE Action Plan Workshop

I participated in the invitation-only workshop on the REE draft Action Plan with Dr. Woteki and her senior staff last June. The facilitated discussion gathered inputs and recommendations from the Land Grant community that assisted REE in further development of the final plan that was released early this February. The principle areas of discussion were:

- What are the important changes proposed by the land-grant community that would enhance the plan? What is missing that needs to be included?
- What is (should, could be) the role of the land-grant community in the implementation of the plan? How can the Land-Grant community be most effective in these regards?
- In the context of the current budget climate, what is the continued feasibility of the action plan? Is more prioritization required? Are there opportunities for partnering, and if so, what are they?
- How do we institutionalize more effective communications between REE and our community? Are the right communication structures, vehicles, and processes (formal and informal) in place and working as intended? Should new structures or models be built? What are the constraints to effective communication (real or perceived)? How do we move communication from a model of only information dissemination to one of consultation?

406 Task Force

ESCOP was represented on the ECOP 406 Task Force to develop options to preserve funding under the NIFA 406 budget lines by Nancy Cox, Wendy Wintersteen, and the research EDs. The task force final report issued in June, 2011 and the guiding principles that it proposed are being used now to help guide decisions on NIFA budget line consolidation.

ESCOP Assignments

BAA Policy Board of Directors (support for ESCOP representative)

National Plant Germplasm Coordinating Committee (Executive Vice-Chair)
BAA Committee on Legislation and Policy
Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Advisory Committee
National Multistate Coordinating Committee (Executive Vice-Chair)

ESCOP Officers

Chair – Lee Sommers (Colorado State)

Chair-elect – Mike Hoffmann (Cornell)

Executive Vice Chair – Mike Harrington (WAAESD)

Past Chair – Orlando McMeans (West Virginia State)

Section Representative to BAA Policy Board of Directors – Steve Slack (Ohio State)

Next Meeting

ESCOP, July 23-26, Savannah, GA (Joint COPs Meeting)