

July 5, 2018

Memorandum

To: ACOP, ECOP, ESCOP, Policy Board of Directors Leadership
From: J. Ernest Minton, Chair Strategic Realignment Committee
Subject: Strategic Realignment Recommendations

The Strategic Realignment committee was appointed by then Policy Board of Directors (PBD) Chair, Mark Hussey. Additional members were added to include representation from the Administrative Heads Section. The Committee met during February to late June in one face to face meeting, several video conferences as well as email exchanges to develop a set of recommendations on how NIFA budget lines might be strategically consolidated to reduce the total number of lines. In developing the recommendations, the committee considered enabling legislation, funding history, whether there were indirect costs, any review processes and history of the President's Budget Requests vs appropriations. Discussions were also held with Sonny Ramaswamy, Meryl Broussard, PBD Chair Orlando McMeans, BAC Chair Craig Beyrouthy, CLP Chair Greg Bohach and others.

It is worth noting that the House version of the current Farm Bill instructed NIFA to do exactly this.

Currently there are 45 funding lines (not mandatory); 27 of which are \$5 M or less. Many of these small lines are annually zeroed out in the President's Budget Request. Of course, this requires additional efforts to have such lines restored during the appropriations process.

By strategically realigning these and possibly other lines, the NIFA budget would be simplified, facilitating advocacy, and meeting desires of appropriations staff for simplification. An added benefit may be to "protect" small lines.

As detailed in the committee charge, the ultimate outcome must adhere to these guiding principles:

- Protect/maintain program funding including local capacity as well as competitive support for important programs and projects;
- Consolidate budget lines where it makes sense, doing no harm;
- Maintain intent (functionally equivalent) of programs, e.g., research, education, Extension, and integrated activities regardless of where the budget lines reside within the USDA/NIFA Budget;
- Expand our ability to integrate research, education and Extension functions of the nation's Land- Grant Universities in local and multistate problem solving;
- Acceptable to those directly affected and supported by the COPs, BAC and PBD; and
- Acceptable to appropriators.

Attached are the draft recommendations, Committee charge and a set of FAQs that should answer most questions that may arise.

This communication constitutes the first step in bringing forward the draft recommendations to the COPs for discussion, comment and/or approval. Initial input will be discussed at the July PBD meeting. The committee will consider feedback from these discussions, make any modifications, add

FAQs and/or provide clarifications that might be needed prior to further release to the Sections. There will be subsequent opportunity for discussions within the Sections prior to final consideration by the PBD in November.

Committee Composition

Ernie Minton K-State, Committee Chair, ESCOP BLC Chair	Glenda Humiston UC ANR	Doug Steele TAMU, APLU
Gary Thompson Penn State, ESCOP Chair	Alan Grant VA Tech	Jim Richards, Cornerstone
Chuck Hibberd NE, ECOP Chair	Jack Payne UFL	Rick Klemme ECOP support
Jon Boren NMSU, ECOP BLC	Ian Maw APLU	Mike Harrington ESCOP support
Mark Latimore FVSU, 1890s		