

**Minutes of Western Academic Program Section (APS) Regional Meeting
November 13, 2005
Hilton Washington**

Present

Wesley Holley, New Mexico State University (chair)
Charles Kinoshita, University of Hawaii at Manoa (secretary)
Stella Coakley, Oregon State University
George Cooper, USDA-CSREES
David Cox, University of Arizona
John Foltz, University of Idaho
Marcia Hollandsworth, Montana State University (CARET liaison to ACOP)
Nancy Irlbeck, Colorado State University
Roger Lewis, University of Nevada, Reno
James Wangberg, University of Wyoming

Western Region Teaching Symposium

The 2006 Western Region Teaching Symposium will be hosted by Utah State University (Dr. Don Snyder, coordinator) in October 2006. Dr. Snyder asked for information on previous symposia to help in the planning and execution of the 2006 Symposium. Dr. Cox said that he would send some information to Dr. Snyder and stressed the importance of charging an adequate registration fee to ensure success of the Symposium. Modest finding will come from seed funds reserved for the Symposium as well as carry-over dollars from the 2005 Symposium. Future symposia will be hosted by University of Arizona (2007) and New Mexico State University (2008).

WAAESD

Dr. Holley reported that Michael Harrington, Executive Director, Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD), asked for suggestions on ways that he could better serve the Western APS.

Nominations for USDA Excellence in Teaching Awards

In recent years, the Western Region has nominated relatively few faculty members for USDA Excellence in College and University Teaching Awards. For example, in 2005, of 50 faculty nominated nationwide, only five nominees were from Western Region universities. The next deadline for nominations is March 15, 2006. Western Region universities need to be more aggressive in nominating faculty for Teaching Awards. It was suggested that APS members report on nominations for Teaching Awards at the upcoming regional meeting.

Western Region Distance Education Consortium

Dr. Holley suggested that the Western Region universities form a consortium in distance education and seek funding from USDA or other funding agencies to support the consortium. Topics suggested included food safety and biosecurity. Dr. Holley solicits other suggestions for topics and funding opportunities.

New Deans Orientation

The next New Deans Orientation is scheduled for December 2006.

Changes in Western Region APS Representatives

Dr. Coakley will represent Oregon State University in the Western Region APS.

Dr. Lewis will retire from University of Nevada, Reno, at the end of this calendar year; a search for his replacement is underway.

Dr. Cooper will serve as USDA-CSREES's liaison to the Western Region APS for the next two years.

USDA-CSREES

Dr. Cooper reported that USDA-CSREES's support for higher education has grown in the last few years, primarily through competitive funding support. Dr. Cooper solicited input from the Western Region APS to help USDA-CSREES determine priorities in higher education. In concert with USDA-CSREES's continuing shift toward funding multi-state collaborations, Western Region universities should look for ways to partner on education-related initiatives. Land grant institutions also should seek ways to partner with and add capacity to smaller institutions; USDA-CSREES provides funding to support such partnerships. Land grant university administrators should nominate faculty to serve on USDA-CSREES review panels; this will better position the institutions to compete for grants in the future.

Upcoming Meetings

Joint APS/AASCARR Winter Meeting, February 26-28, 2006.

Joint WAES-WCES-WAP Directors Meeting, Monterey, California, July 23-26, 2006.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Charles Kinoshita