

**Minutes of the Western Administrative Heads Section
2008 Western Regional Joint Summer Meeting
July 7, 2008, 1:00 – 5:00 pm
UAF Campus Wood Center Ballroom**

Members Present: Dan Aga, Dan Bernardo, Bill Boggess, Dan Dooley, Frank Galey, John Hammel, Andy Hashimoto, Ian Maw, Rang Narayanan, Lee Yudin.

Others: Michael Harrington (Executive Director), Ian Maw (NASULGC), Ralph Otto (CSREES), David Veazey (Recording Secretary), Tim Sanders (Cornerstone Consulting), Elizabeth Rios-Crabb (for Lowell Catlett)

Introduction

Dan Bernardo, WAHS chair, called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm.

An agenda and accompanying handouts (WAHS By-Laws) were distributed.

All participants introduced themselves.

Joint Session with CARET Representatives

The CARET group presented a plaque recognizing the service of Dan Dooley to the CARET organization.

The group convened in the adjacent room with the Western CARET representatives. Randy Smith, Chair of the National CARET, presented the CARET Strategic Plan (adopted March 4, 2008) and the draft implementation plan. Discussion followed concerning the three main initiatives of the implementation plan. Key items discussed were strengthening relationships between CARET representatives and administrative heads, connecting CARET representatives with university lobbyists, and the function and composition of the Targeted Advocacy Group.

Dan Bernardo and Randy Smith distributed material announcing next summer's Western Regional Joint Summer Meeting.

WAHS Purpose and Processes

Dan Bernardo led a discussion concerning the overall purpose and direction of WAHS. The group reached a consensus that the current format and frequency best met the needs of the group. While other sections (e.g., WAAESD) have more structured schedules and activities, WAHS is best served by identifying current issues and discussing them during the summer meeting. WAHS did show that it could mobilize and "weigh in" on critical topics through its response to the CREATE-21 initiative.

A suggestion that was well received concerned the orientation of new members. It was proposed and agreed to that the chair would call new members and introduce them to the purpose, processes, and composition of WAHS.

WAHS By-Laws

Dan Bernardo introduced a set of WAHS By-Law changes suggested by Mike Harrington to correspond to the current activities of the organization. The following changes to the proposal were made:

Article III, Section 1. "...Guam, Micronesia, and Northern Marianas,..."

Article IV, Section 1. "The Executive Committee shall consist of the Western AHS chair, chair-elect/Secretary, and immediate past chair."

Note: Group elected to delete the recommendation to add two at large elected members to the executive committee.

Article VII, Section 2.

Add "within 30 days" to subsection c.

Delete the proposed subsection e.

Group moved, seconded to approve the proposed changes to the By-Laws, with modifications noted above.

Officer Elections

Gene Sander, University of Arizona, was nominated to serve as the Chair-Elect/Secretary and was elected by a unanimous vote.

Farm Bill Implementation

Dan Dooley, who is serving a member of the Farm Bill Implementation Assistance Committee, provided comment on the Research Title of the Farm Bill and his understanding of implementation steps. Dan gave a summary of what was requested in the CREATE-21 proposal and what was actually authorized in the Farm Bill. This presentation is available from the CREATE-21 web site. Dan also noted the lack of representation from the western U.S. in many of the committees which influenced the Farm Bill (e.g., CREATE-21 Committee).

Tim Sanders from Cornerstone Consulting provided a summary of the Farm Bill and his projections of how various provisions of the bill were to be implemented. Tim provided several insights as to how the reorganization mandated in the Farm Bill will proceed. He also provided handouts of BAC FY-09 Priorities.

Two important appointments are to be made which will have a dramatic impact on the long-term implementation of the research provisions of the Farm Bill – the Eminent

Scientist and the Under-Secretary position. Dan Dooley suggested that the group brainstorm about potential nominations for the Eminent Scientist position which was proposed in CREATE-21 and included in the reorganization proposed in the Farm Bill. This will be a 6-year appointment, and the person should have stature similar to the directors of NSF and NIH.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Ralph Otto, Associate Administrator for CSREES, was introduced and provided a summary of the provisions of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. SCRI was funded for the next 5 years at \$50 million a year. The legislation was written requiring a dollar for dollar match. The permissible indirect cost recovery rate is 22%, and applicants cannot apply the differential of their indirect cost recovery rate and the 22 percent to the match. Much discussion followed concerning the matching requirement and CSREES's interpretation concerning the use indirect costs for match. There is discussion in the Congress about modifying this interpretation through legislation.