

Western Academic Programs Section
Western Region Joint Summer Business Meeting • Minutes
June 28, 2021 • 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Attendees: Don Conner, Tracy Dougher, Cath Kleier, Claus Tittiger, Brian Warnick, Ania Wieczorek, and Saige Zespy (WAAESD Recording Secretary)

Guests: Wendy Fink

Agenda

1. [Welcome](#)
2. [Roll Call](#)
3. [Vote on Minutes from June 3, 2021](#)
4. New Business
 - a. [2021 WRJSM](#)
 - i. [Post-COVID Opportunities](#)
 - ii. [Address Access, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
 - b. [APS Business Meeting](#)
5. Old Business
 - a. [APLU National Update](#)
 - i. [APS Mini-Administrative Sabbatical](#)
 - ii. [USDA Teaching Awards](#)
 - iii. [Other ACOP Updates](#)
 - b. [Western Governors' Association Update](#)
 - c. [White Paper for Inter-Institutional Exchange](#)
 - d. [Institutional News](#)
 - e. [Next W-APS Meetings](#)
6. [Adjourn](#)

Agenda Item	Description	Presenter	Minutes
1	Welcome	Tittiger	Claus opened the meeting. He reported that Kate would not be at the meeting, as she was traveling around the West and unable to join.
2	Roll Call	Zespy	Saige gathered the role from the list of Zoom participants.
3	Approval of June Meeting Minutes	Tittiger	Claus asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the June 4 meeting. Ania moved to approve the minutes. Brian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4	New Business		
a	2021 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting		The Western Region Joint Summer Meeting begins today, June 28. The Teaching Awards Ceremony begins at 4 p.m. PT, with Tracy and Ania presenting awards for the group.
i	Post-COVID Opportunities		<p>At the meeting on June 28, Claus noted it would be important to prepare for the break-out sessions. He noted that on Tuesday, a discussion on Post-COVID opportunities, partners and resources would be held, along with discussion inter-institutional course sharing. For the meeting, there will be several talks, question and answer period, and break-out sessions led by chairs. The main question is, what are the regional-based opportunities to partner and share resources with WGA, CSG-West, and WIR-NaCo. Potential topics for discussion during the break-out sessions including sharing resources between states; adapting new remote opportunities; resuming post-COVID; generating resources creatively; and meeting the needs of communities. Claus suggested that everyone make sure to put some thought into the topic in the day before the break-out.</p> <p>The break-out discussions will be held between all associations (AHS/W-CARET, W-APS, WAAESD, and WEDA). Don noted that discussions can include both individual association priorities, as well as the individual experiences brought to the group. Ania suggested that everyone make sure to mention sharing resources across western region universities by sharing courses. There has been a cohesive message within W-APS in the last several months. Tracy agreed that there have been good conversations on courses, course sharing and the barriers, which prepares the group for a large conversation.</p>

			<p>Ania noted that moving forward, different students will be entering and exiting universities. She noted that students graduating in the next year will have less hands-on experience, and students coming into universities will be prepared at a different level.</p> <p>The conversation will continue on Tuesday.</p>
ii	Address Access, Equity and Inclusion		<p>On Wednesday, there will be a discussion on access, equity, and inclusion, with a focus on Native peoples in the region. Steve Gavazzi will moderate the keynote, with Dr. Barry Dunn of South Dakota State University talking about the Wokini Initiative.</p> <p>Then, Tracy, Ania, and Claus will be talking about process being made in diversity, equity and inclusion of Native Peoples within the region. Ania asked whether Tracy and Claus are addressing one topic or a large over-arching opportunity. Tracy and Claus both noted they have several bullets, looking at several initiatives at their respective universities on what has worked.</p> <p>Following a break, a conversation will be help to discuss how 1862s can assist the 1994s and FRTEP in the discussion. Claus noted that there is less preparatory conversation needed for that item, but there will be another group discussion following short presentations.</p>
b	APS Business Meeting		<p>The final item on the agenda on Thursday is the business meeting, from 2-5 p.m. Claus suggested that it may be possible to complete the business meeting early. He did not anticipate the need for the entire three-hour period. The most important item will be passing the gavel to Ania and Kate.</p>
5	Old Business		

a	APLU National Update	Fink	Claus asked Wendy to provide an APLU National Update. Wendy noted the House Ag Committee has begun to move on appropriations and the full committee mark-up is currently happening. There aren't any specific actions in Academic Programs.
i	APS Mini-Administrative Sabbatical	Fink	On July 1, the mini sabbatical grant is due by July 1. ACOP will consider the applications at their July 19-20 meetings. There will be a report during the last week of July.
ii	USDA Teaching Awards	Fink	The USDA Teaching Awards surprise parties are almost complete, and she said they are very fun. She encouraged everyone to nominate people for the year. APS is doing more work on the teaching awards, to check which institutions have never applied or haven't applied in a while. Reach-outs to those institutions will be conducted to those institutions with department heads to raise awareness. Additionally, APS will be doing outreach to institutions. Wendy notes she has a great list of institutions that offer degrees in agriculture, which is a long list.
iii	Other ACOP Updates	Fink and Tittiger	<p>On the national level, Wendy reported that Infrastructure Bill is moving, which relates largely to the transportation side of the world. She encouraged everyone to not lose hope, as a second wave is likely to be coming soon.</p> <p>ACOP will hold a meeting on July 19-20, the leadership of the Agriculture Board. The meeting includes 90 to 100 people, and the meeting is all virtual. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting because of its virtual nature, and the invitation should be coming out soon.</p>

			<p>The BAA Annual Meeting is likely to be virtual, but the announcement is likely to be made before July 1, as well.</p> <p>Wendy sent in comments on NIFA's FY23 budget. She noted that, while FY23 seems a long ways away, it's not. Wendy provided both oral and written comments last week. Tracy, as chair, and other executive members weighed in. APS also received an award for their Employability Skills Study and journal contribution. While she received the award, she explained that the award really goes to APS as a whole.</p> <p>Claus noted that the November APLU Meeting is in planning stages. It will be held in November, with updates to come forward. He encouraged everyone to stay tuned.</p>
b	Western Governors' Association Update	Hess (?) and Tittiger	The Western Governors' Association is holding their summer session June 30-July 1. They are also joining the WRJSM on Tuesday afternoon. The June 30 meeting includes Secretaries of Commerce, Ag, Interior, and Energy.
c	White Paper for Inter-Institutional Exchange	Kleier and Moots	Cath made a spreadsheet to share courses that are online. No one has yet added items for courses that are and will be available online. The spreadsheet is available on Box. The spreadsheet aims to capture courses that are more permanently online, rather than just temporarily online courses. She encouraged everyone to ad their information to determine just how useful sharing online courses would be across institutions.
d	Institutional News	All	In the institutional news, Ania asked Wendy to provide a summary for sabbatical. Wendy explained that Ania is taking a sabbatical and providing support to the National Academic Programs Office, with a

			<p>focus on communications. Wendy noted that, if APS wanted to do a better job of advocating, what should be brought together and communicated with academic programs. If a one-pager were to be created, what information would be highlighted (i.e. student experience, student outcomes, etc.)? Conversations must be held to answer these questions and move the process forward. Communications would also help to communicate what Academic Programs funding is used for to communicate with research and extension. Additionally, government affairs persons don't understand where student affairs funding comes from. There is rampant confusion among where funding goes to and where it is used among government affairs. The goal is to provide simple talking points that are effective across multiple stakeholder groups.</p> <p>Ania will start talking to different groups about what they need, asking specifically about what each group would like to see. Wendy noted that there will be many great conversations moving forward. Ania will plan a two-year sabbatical. Doug Steele is highly supportive of the effort, and APS is hoping that, next summer, Ania will be able to travel to Washington, D.C.</p> <p>APLU recently hired a communications and marketing person starting July 15th. Wendy noted that the person will immediately ask about talking points, and APS may be quickly left behind because talking points are not yet organized. Wendy noted that, if talking points are constructed, it will be used in other settings and be very helpful for academic programs as a whole.</p> <p>Ania will be looking to the western region for support and testing ideas as a starting ground. Ania said the first things she is</p>
--	--	--	---

			<p>going to work on is a strongman for the questions. In running these interviews, Ania wants to have good ideas to ask before going too deep. She hopes to run the questions by the western region prior her interviews across the country.</p> <p>All of W-APS noted their support and excitement about the effort.</p> <p><u>New Mexico</u></p> <p>Don noted that July 1 is a big day, as they anticipate the removal of COVID restrictions. From the DEI perspective, a part-time position in the Dean's Office has just been announced for someone who will be responsible for leading DEI initiatives at the college-level and also liaise with the new Vice President at the university level. Don explained that, 10 years ago, a MANNRS Chapter was present on campus, and it has since disappeared. They are working to re-establish that chapter, and are also exploring to look at local chapters to get pre-college students engaged, as well.</p> <p>Don continued that last summer, the college had a retreat dedicated to the topic. Each department is moving ahead with specific initiatives. The issue is on the front burner and New Mexico is trying to take a positive, proactive approach.</p> <p>Don also noted that he apologized that Friday afternoons are when he often has college meetings. Don asked about Together We Grow updates.</p> <p>Don noted that New Mexico State accepted the 2023 date to host NACTA, and he looks forward for everyone to join New Mexico State.</p> <p>Ania noted that the day and time of the meetings will likely be revisited, with Kate</p>
--	--	--	---

taking over the chairmanship, so she noted that there is likely to be a change.

California

Cath explained that California opened up June 15th, and they are nearly business as usual. The new winery and grange hall are opening at the end of the summer. The \$27 million facility is opening up. They also had an in-person Cal Poly Horse Auction, and they raised a lot of money for the student horse enterprise. She noted that things are more fun lately, now that they can return to campus.

Montana

Tracy explained that MSU is in the midst of orientation and boot camps. Orientations are online, and boot camps are held on campus. The boot camps are smaller groups, but students are really excited to come back. Orientation numbers are taking a giant leap. She's excited to see that, but there are a lot of folks who are waiting and seeing.

Tracy is also looking into MANNRS again. Montana has never had a chapter, and she is returning to the idea as they are setting up an Indigenous Pathways in Agriculture Program. She is interested in having a conversation about what is being seen in those programs. Brian noted that Utah had a meeting with Mia Farrell (FSLI cohort member), who was president of National MANNRS to provide good information as a great resource.

Nevada

UNR is in the middle of orientation. He noted that they have changed the process for placement tests for freshmen entering math and English classes. They believe that many freshmen are holding off until high

			<p>school classes are finalized before enrollment.</p> <p>UNR also has an agreement with Apple that all freshmen will be issued iPads, and instructors will also have iPads. There will be a big integrated learning effort occurring, beginning with the summer boot camp. Don noted they have engaged in the same program.</p> <p><u>Utah</u></p> <p>Brian added that orientation is also occurring at Utah. He noted that they have weird things going on with enrollment numbers. They have 500 students who have reservations and paid deposits for on-campus housing, but have yet to enroll or register for classes. This experience has been different than in the past. They are seeing the gap closing between current enrollment and prior year enrollment. Overall, college applications are up, but the yield will be follow the applications and they'll consider to see a boost.</p> <p>Similar to New Mexico, a MANNRS program has been resurrected at USU and they are working closely with Latin-X Cultural Center, and an Extension specialist has been assigned to work specifically with Latin-X communities in northern Utah to more clearly pave the way for students, particular first-generation students, to come to USU.</p> <p>Uintah Basin and Blanding campuses in southeastern Utah are also working on efforts related to Navajo Nation and Ute tribal lands. USU developed several years ago an associate degree in agricultural science is offered in Blanding. Utah does not have 1994 tribal schools, even though the state has a large Native American population. Those students are served through regional campus programs, and</p>
--	--	--	--

			<p>they are working to find ways to get more students enrolled. Certificate programs stack into that associate's degree, which then stacks into the bachelor's degree program. The associate's degree program was initially targeted to Native American students.</p> <p>One program that is interesting is an "inherited" Southeastern Technical Center, which joined with College of Easter Utah, with then merged with USU. In southeastern Utah, USU offers technical programs and one of those programs is a CDL program, a one semester certificate. In one instance, students have been offered \$98,000 through a large company to complete the semester certificate. Additionally, Utah Division of Workforce Services will pay for the certificate. The certificate programs also does not charge out-of-state tuition. There are many opportunities for students to be successful in the industry. USU continues to work on those partnerships.</p>
e	Next W-APS Meetings	Tittiger	<p>Claus said that W-APS has been talking about DEI initiatives, and Ricardo is on deck to talk about DEI initiatives next. He asked for any updates from the rest of the group and news from institutions.</p> <p>The group decided it was unnecessary to meet on July 1, but to resume meetings in August. Ania and Kate will reach out about the timing for the next meeting.</p>
	Other Meetings	Fink	<p>Wendy encouraged everyone to go to a MANNRS National Conference because it is a great event, with the atmosphere of almost a carnival. The opportunity also provides a chance to be judged on speaking and other events. She encouraged everyone to attend.</p>

6	Adjourn	Tittiger	The meeting adjourned, and everyone was encouraged to move to the main WRJSM meeting link.