

**Minutes of Western Academic Program Section (APS) Regional Meeting
November 13, 2006
Hilton Americas-Houston**

Present

Wesley Holley, New Mexico State University (chair)
Charles Kinoshita, University of Hawaii at Manoa (chair-elect/secretary)
Charles Boyer, California State University, Fresno
Stella Coakley, Oregon State University
John Foltz, University of Idaho
Nancy Irlbeck, Colorado State University
James Wangberg, University of Wyoming
George Cooper, USDA-CSREES
Michael Harrington, WAAESD

Call to Order

Wesley Holley called the meeting to order at 7:03 a.m.

Western Region Teaching Symposium

The 2007 Western Region Teaching Symposium will be hosted by the University of Arizona and the 2008 Symposium will be hosted by New Mexico State University. Wesley Holley will send the schedule of future Western Region Teaching Symposia to the members of the Western APS. John Foltz advised the members that in his discussions with David Cox, plans call for the 2007 Symposium to consist of a one-day teaching workshop and a half-day western states academic deans' meeting.

APS Academic Summit

As a follow-on to October's National Academy of Sciences academic summit, a summer APS conference is being held at College Station, Texas, June 11-13, 2007. Faculty, administrators, and students are encouraged to participate.

Collaboration in Western Region Effort

Wesley Holley strongly urged collaboration within the Western Region on activities of common interest to member institutions. To gain insight on potential areas of common interest, George Cooper suggested that members enter information on new majors being proposed into the FAEIS database. George Cooper also noted that USDA-CSREES's Challenge Grant is a potential funding mechanism for interdisciplinary student learning efforts. Proposals that take advantage of strengths and add capacity across state lines are looked upon favorably. One example of multi-institution collaboration administered by CSREES is the Alaskan-Native/Native-Hawaiian Serving Institutions grant, a partnership of four-year and community colleges across Alaska and Hawaii.

Stella Coakley noted that maintaining sufficient faculty numbers to adequately support graduate education programs poses the biggest problem at Oregon State University.

Following a discussion on the value of establishing a website to facilitate discussions and post examples of potential multi-institution academic programs, Michael Harrington agreed to solicit input from APS members on specific needs for such a website. If deemed of value, New Mexico State University will take the lead in developing the site.

Other Matters

George Cooper reported that he is mentoring a very capable minority high school student who is interested in wildlife management. Member institutions interested in this student should contact Dr. Cooper.

James Wangberg reported that the ACOP executive committee met and agreed that everyone needs to make a stronger effort to engage members of ACOP and APS to participate in national and regional meetings.

Upcoming Events

Joint APS/AASCARR Winter Meeting, Washington D.C., February 28 - March 2, 2007.

APS Summer Conference, College Station, Texas, June 11-13 2007.

Joint WAES-WCES-WAP Directors Meeting, Jackson, Wyoming, July 14-19, 2007.

New Officers

Charles Kinoshita will serve as chair and John Foltz as chair-elect/secretary of the Western APS for 2006-2007. Thanks to Wes Holley for serving this group very capably as the 2005-2006 chair.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Charles Kinoshita