

Agenda Item 7: Policy Board of Directors Report, September 22, 2008

Presenter: Nancy Cox

Background Information:

The Policy Board of Directors met on July 22 in San Juan, PR prior to the Joint COPs meeting. Below are some highlights from that meeting.

1. Peter McPherson, NASULGC President, Comments
 - Very active international agenda with significant involvement from Land Grant Universities
 - Senate has put a \$29 M earmark for CRSPs in the FY'09 budget report
 - Working with Gates Foundation on a \$7 M grant for work in Africa
 - Recent statement on animal research was well conceived and received. Are there other topics/issues that NASULGC should develop a policy statement on?
 - Board of Directors is considering changing NASULGC's name
 - Two options currently under consideration are:
 - APRU – Association of Public Research University
 - APLU – Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
 - A survey will be sent out to internal and external constituents obtain opinions on name options
 - Prefer to make a decision on the change at the annual conference in November
2. PBD Chair's Report
 - Added Nancy Cox to Farm Bill Implementation Assistance Committee
 - Council of Deans meeting in April
 - Developed a white paper on improving and enhancing Land Grant Universities activities in international arena that has been given to AID
 - Main issues addressed are:
 - Human capacity
 - Food system
 - Enterprise development
 - This white paper available from NASULGC website on BIFAD link
3. CSREES Report
 - Primary new activity is implementing Farm Bill provisions based on chronological schedule and priorities
 - Specialty Crops Research Initiative RFA and rule have been published
 - Rules will have to been done for most programs because they have been changed in various ways
 - AFRI is still primarily a research program but now has ability to make stand-alone extension and education grants
 - RFP will not be out until at least November, maybe later, due to changes
 - CSREES's primary concern is getting all funds out to the system
 - The new mandatory accounts will be spent directly from treasury unless prohibited by action of Congress.
 - Other main activity is gathering stakeholder input on implementation details for new programs and structural/organizational changes
 - Structural changes
 - Undersecretary is Chief Scientist
 - Creation of REEO, 6 offices in program areas with max 30 personnel total

- Roadmap will begin development 90 days after June 22 (Sept) and completed by September '09
 - NIFA ie "National Institute", will be in place by October 1, 2009
 - NIFA Director will be President appointee, not sure if appointment will happen soon or after January 2009
 - FY'09 budget is uncertain but agency is moving ahead with RFA's etc for '09
 - FY'10 budget will be developed based on continuing current services plus 2%
4. Farm Bill
- Implementation Assistance Committee has discussed some aspects of implementation with REE leaders and summary of meeting was sent to BAA by email on July 18
 - Key point is that there is great opportunity with changes to enhance stature and support for research, extension, and education through USDA
 - Roadmap is key to how programs will be implemented through REEO and NIFA
 - Some concern among extension that the six REEO programs areas don't seem to include youth and family development
5. Budget and Advocacy Committee Report
- BAA needs to make sure we're organized to provide best input to new REE budget structure
 - The ten sections or groups represented on BAC presented their priorities
 - Capacity funds were highest for all, but each also had program priorities
 - In future, BAC may want to develop program priorities, rather than budget line priorities, which it has the authority to do
6. System Integration Task Force
- Orientation Workshop program in December is set and most speakers are confirmed
 - Colien asked this Task Force to work with CSREES on simplifying the POW process
7. Emerging Issues Task Force
- Still being formed and a few member slots need filled
8. Board on Agriculture Assembly Funds Investment
- NASULGC has requested that the BAA balance of \$663,553 and all Section balances to be move into the University of Minnesota Foundation
 - Primary restriction on this move would be the requirement of a 6 month advanced notice on any withdrawal of principle
 - BAA assessment purpose is not same as an endowment and the lack of flexibility for withdrawal is a big disadvantage
 - Motion: decline the offer to move the reserve funds
 - approved
9. Assessments
- Policy Board of Directors has the authority to impose sanctions on those institutions that have not paid BAA and CARET assessments
 - Sanctions currently are that individuals from those institutions are not eligible to be a Policy Board of Directors delegate
 - Sanctions to be added are:
 - 2 x fee for Science on Hill exhibit space
 - Institutions will not vote in Board on Agriculture Assembly elections
 - Currently the overhead rate for accounts at NASULGC is different for various BAA accounts
 - NASULGC has proposed a flat 30.7% overhead rate and the addition of some salaries to costs
 - Proposed overhead rate would not apply to pass-through accounts, ie. eXtension and Cornerstone
 - Current overhead rates for extension and academic is ~ 17% and experiment station account has a 4% management fee
 - NASULGC would like to make this change by November to reduce deficit in FY'09

- PBD Chair will request official proposal from NASULGC on overhead for BAA and Section accounts that includes details on use of funds
10. CARET
 - Currently implementing new strategic plan which was adopted March 14, 2008
 11. FSLI
 - New cohort is 23, but could be higher
 - Budget is getting tight and some adjustment in program are being done to reduce costs
 12. LEAD-21
 - Current class has 68, somewhat below target or 75
 - Working on proposal to PBD for scholarship support for minority – serving institutions
 13. System Communication & Marketing Plan
 - Implementation committee has established operating guidelines and metrics
 - First activity was with Rep Rodney Alexandra and LSU in LA
 - Article in USA Today on diminishing funding for agricultural research and op-ed article by Senator Harkin will be in first issue of “Innovations”, which will be distributed to Congress and other decision-makers
 14. ECOP branding study
 - Branding survey has been completed and committee will meet soon to start analyzing results
 15. Exhibit on Hill
 - Science Exhibit on Hill will occur again in '09 in conjunction with CARET's meeting and Hill visits
 - A planning committee will be appointed soon to determine a theme and develop a RFP for exhibits
 16. BAA Rules of Operations
 - Proposed changes will be voted on during NASULGC annual conference
 - Additional changes proposed during discussion include:
 - A representative from the insular institutions will be added to the PBD, BAC, and Farm Bill Committee
 - Appointments to committees and task forces made by the PBD Chair will be ratified by a vote of the PBD
 17. Policy Board of Directors election
 - Sections/groups that need to elect a PBD representative this fall include AHS, ESS, IAS, and 1994s
 18. PBD Future Meetings
 - After NASULGC annual conference in Chicago, Tuesday, Nov 11, from 10:15 to 3:00
 - March 10-11 in San Antonio, TX

Action Requested:

None, information only