

## **SRAC-1 Committee 2018 Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was held May 15 – 17 at Texas A&M University, College Station TX. Chairs in attendance included David Baltensperger TAMU (Chair and host), Mike Phillips MSU (Chair-Elect), Jeff Edwards OSU, Robert Bacon UARK, Scott Senseman UTK, Julie Carrier UTK, and Rebecca McCulley UKY (attended via web conference due to flight cancellation).

### **Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

1. Chair Baltensperger called the meeting to order and asked for a roundtable update of current issues faced by chairs. Discussion primarily focused on budget issues, faculty numbers, and changes in university administrations.
2. Greetings from Texas A&M and AgriLife administration
  - a. Dean and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Patrick Stover greeted the group and provided an overview of his research interests related to nutrition
  - b. Associate Director of AgriLife Research Dr. David Lunt provided an overview of research facilities, faculty, and capacities
  - c. Interim Director Texas AgriLife Extension Service Dr. Parr Rosson provided an overview of issues and challenges facing Cooperative Extension.
  - d. Associate Department Head for Soil and Crop Sciences Teaching and Research – Dr. C Wayne Smith provided current student numbers and an overview of distance education provided by the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
  - e. Associate Department Head for Soil and Crop Sciences Extension – Dr. Larry Redmon gave an overview of extension faculty and expertise in the department.
3. SAC-1 Business Meeting
  - a. Lesley Oliver (via video conference) convened the business meeting
    - i. Introduction of newest member Rebecca McCulley UKY
    - ii. Purpose of group – facilitate linkages and collaborations among institutions
    - iii. Chair Baltensperger went through the list of current agronomy chairs and updated accordingly
    - iv. Industrial hemp multistate group being formed and hope to have in place by October of 2018.
    - v. Changes to documentation required for time and effort reporting – some changes already in place and other potential changes coming
  - b. Jeff Steiner –
    - i. Sonny Ramaswamy's term as NIFA director ended in May. New acting director is Tom Sanower. Anticipated that acting director will be in place for 3 – 6 months followed by a permanent director.
    - ii. 2018 budget resolution – benefited NIFA and AFRI – in process of getting RFA's out and the new sustainable agriculture RFA is currently out.
    - iii. Google NIFA 2019 Explanatory Notes to view information on directive of priorities from congress
    - iv. Know your state liaison, which is an National Program Leader assigned to your state.

- v. Next meeting location – MS State 2019, Oklahoma State 2020
  - vi. As host, Mike Phillips is 2019 chair. Henceforth, chair-elect will also serve as secretary (Edwards 2019).
  - vii. NC State would like to host in 2022 to coincide with opening of new facility. A 2021 host will be identified at our next meeting.
- c. Business meeting adjourned
4. Tour of Texas A&M AgriLife facilities
  5. Afternoon session at new turf facility
    - a. strategies for faculty appraisal and evaluation
    - b. industrial hemp
    - c. undergraduate assessment
    - d. faculty teaching loads
  6. Tour of Turf Facility

**Thursday, May 17**

1. Alumni relations, development
2. Update on IDC and state level commodity groups
3. Undergraduate curriculums were discussed. Dr. C. Wayne Smith provided an overview of the Soil and Crop Sciences online graduate programs. There was some interest expressed in including agronomic courses in the ACCEPtS program.
4. Graduate student training – requirements, expectations
5. Participants thanks Dr. Baltensperger, Judy Young, and the Soil and Crop Sciences Department for the well-organized meeting and their hospitality during the meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned.