

# Minutes of NCAC/SAC -16 Winter 2015 Meetings

Conference Call Meeting of NCAC/SAC-16  
February 2, 2015

1. The meeting was called to order by chair Shreekala Bajwa at 1:30 CST

In Attendance: Paul Heinemann – Penn State (past chair), Dan Thomas - OK State Univ., Ghasem Shahbazi – NC A&T Univ., Doug Reinemann, Univ. of Wisconsin, Saied Mostagami (SAC-16 administrator), Virginia Tech, Dick Straub (NCAC-16 administrator) – Univ. of Wisconsin, Sri Ramaswamy – Univ. of Minnesota, Dorota Haman – Univ. of Florida, Mary Leigh Wolfe - Virginia Tech, Steve Mickelson – Iowa State, Scott Shearer – Ohio State Univ., Lalit Verma – Univ. of Arkansas, Beth Ahner – Cornell Univ. , Sue Nokes – Univ. of Kentucky, Jinglu Tan – Univ. of Missouri, Van Kelley – South Dakota State Univ., Brad Rein – NIFA, K.C. Ting, University of Illinois.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the Jan 30-31 multi-state project meeting held in Atlanta had been distributed prior to the meeting. KC Ting and Sue Nokes noted that they were left off the attendance list. Dorota Haman said she did not know which meeting was implied in the section “long-term goals for these meetings” which topic she was to have been led by her at the Atlanta meeting. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the implied referral were NCAC/SAC 16 meetings. Paul Heinemann moved to accept the minutes as amended, and Lalit Verma seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted by unanimous voice vote.

## **3. Project review**

### ***NC1023 Engr. for food safety and quality – Project termination in 2014/New project (Heinemann and Tan)***

Jinglu Tan started the discussion of the review findings. He said this group used to be the “food engineering” group. He said this is an active group, and recommended that the project be approved. Paul Heinemann agreed that the project should be approved, stating that it had concise objectives, and also stating it was an active group.

### ***NCERA 197 Agricultural Safety and Health Research and Extension – Project termination in 2014/New project (Ting and Reinemann )***

KC Ting led the discussion as Doug Reinemann was not in attendance. The project requests renewal through Sept. 30, 2015 in the important subject area ag safety and health. This is a well-known group in the field, and well organized. Project objectives are adequately stated. The methods are good, although repeats much of the existing project. While this is a NCERA, academic goals are not shown – only research and extension activities. The renewal reads very similar to current project. Some states have been dropped in the renewal proposal. An annual report is missing for the Oct. 2013 – Sept. 2014 period. There is no indication of annual meeting attendance. There is an overlap in 2012-13 and 2013-

14 reports. Activities and outcomes vs. goals are reported. KC suggested approval with some revisions. Work on the website is not complete.

Sreekala read off Doug Reinemann's review that had been forwarded to her. "There is no academic portion, and no changes since the last one. The renewal project reads the same as the last project. The report is missing, and it is difficult to figure out who are the primary, minor and non-contributors. The Project would benefit a review by all – and more activities.

Brad Rein from NIFA stated that there was a substantial disconnect between report and activities. Ironically it received a NC project of excellence award last year. Recent focus is on confined space – the project provided leadership of national conference in Iowa/Minnesota and developed white papers. Members said project helped with obtaining competitive national funding. The project is collaborating with Canada.

KC Ting recommended approval, but stated that much better documentation is needed for an adequate review. Dick Straub said the renewal is a lot of the same – needs more justification. Brad Rein said the group could ask the project to address the issues of concern. Maybe something did not get uploaded into the system. Dick Straub noted that even if the project is not funded, members could meet to upgrade documentation. Justification and productivity is needed in these current times.

KC Ting stated that someone will need to go to the website and submit a report with comments. Comments are to be communicated through website. Our comments will go to the proposal writers.

KC ting moved to approve renewal of project NCERA 197 with reported comments and recommendation of revision. Scott Shearer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jinglu Tan moved to approve project NC-1023. The motion was seconded by Paul Heinemann. No discussion ensued and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

As a follow up on feedback mechanics, Dick Straub suggested to let Chris Hamilton know who the reviewers are so that she can set permission for them to submit their review online. Her e-mail address is [chamilton@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:chamilton@cals.wisc.edu). Chris may also be able to cut and paste comments to place into the system.

Saied Mostagami said NCAC-16 has no project review. An ad-hoc committee was put together to look at projects. Dept. heads should look at projects and see if faculty should join projects, regardless of regions. Dick Straub also echoed that anybody is eligible to participate in multistate projects, independent of region.

#### **4. Feb 17 meeting and agenda**

Dick Straub stated that the primary purpose of the Feb. 17 meeting is to meet each other and staffers in Washington – and to review projects and exchange ideas and information. This is secondary to a particular meeting agenda. The meeting in China was not justified for use of hatch fund, as it did not qualify under USDA multistate business.

The group will meet at the Capital Hilton. We will participate in the "Future Cities" competition in the morning, starting at 8:15 pm. Details are in the meeting agenda. Terry Howell will present two awards on behalf of ASABE. At 9:30 am, the celebrity judges will be introduced. There will be presentations from the finalists at 10:00.

Our group meeting will be in the afternoon at the Waterfront Center. The waterfront center is 2 miles from the Capital Hilton hotel. Will use the metro, leaving at about 11:30 and have lunch at L'Enfant Plaza recommended by Brad. We plan to walk to the Waterfront Center from lunch.

Sonny Ramaswamy is on the agenda in the afternoon. Ray Ali will address the group on the subject of National Needs Fellowship. Also Brad is communicating with a couple of past Jefferson fellows as suggested by the national academy of sciences to talk about the Jefferson Fellowship program

Brad Rein said that a Jefferson Fellow may speak to the group. He suggested we drop the agenda item if person does not show up. Paul Heinemann asked if any people were arriving on Monday, and suggested getting together for dinner. Paul will conduct a poll regarding arrival times and dinner. Brad said he needed a list of participants for security reasons. Sreekala will take a poll for attendance and share it with Paul and Brad.

Sreekala said that Dorota Haman will discuss the results of the departmental surveys. Another agenda item is discussion on NAE grand challenges in engr. education. "What is happening with grand challenges across departments"?

An ASABE update will be presented by Darrin Drollinger and Terry Howell. The "Administrator's update" agenda item is to be removed.

The final agenda item is an update from the Beijing meeting.

Sreekala will update the agenda and send out a week prior to the meeting.

## **5. Officer Election**

Steve Searcy will move to chair.

A vice-chair/secretary is needed. Dick Straub nominated Doug Reinemann. Scott Shearer indicated "strong national support" for the nomination.

Lalit Verma moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Dorota Haman. Doug Reinemann was elected by unanimous voice vote to vice-chair.

## **6. Future Meeting**

Annual meetings usually alternate between DC and an alternate location. Lalit Verma suggested adding the next meeting venue to the agenda for our Feb. 17 meeting.

Sreekala Bajwa adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry Grabow

Acting recording secretary

## Annual NCAC/SAC-16meeting

February 17, 2015, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Due to snow storm closing much of Washington D.C., the meeting was relocated to the Capital Hilton.

Attending on site: Van Kelley, Ajit Srivastava, Dorota Haman, Brad Rein, Sonny Ramaswamy, Bernie Engel, Sreekala Bajwa, Dan Thomas, Gary Grabow, Jon Wilkerson (for Eric Drum), Mary Leigh Wolfe, Paul Heinemann, Steve Mickelson

Attending by phone: Mike Wallace, Sri Ramawamy, Mark Riley, Brad Rein, Bryan Jenkins, Sue Nokes, Doug Reinemann, Lalit Verma, Abolghasem Shahbazi

Future Cities Competition: Group participated in the awards ceremonies during the morning. ASABE President Terry Howell presented two awards; "Food production", and "Best use of renewable energy".

Meeting called to order at 1:15 PM by Sreekala Bajwa, Chair

Sonny Ramaswamy, Director at USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, discussed NIFA budget situation and asked for input on operating practices. If the requested budget was approved, NIFA would have increased the budget \$500M from FY2012 to FY2015. He stated they want to emphasize systems approaches and engineering and increase funding in the Foundational Research area. He discussed specific areas of research emphasis, and specifically mentioned a new exploratory grants program that allows program managers to fund up to \$100k on high risk, high reward projects with a short turnaround time. Dr. Ramaswamy emphasized efforts to improve the efficiency of NIFA and his hope to reduce the required floor space in the Riverfront Center and redirect those funds into competitive grants. NIFA staff has been reduced and they are very interested in university faculty working for NIFA on IPAs or short term stays.

Daniel Oerther, a Jefferson Science Fellow with USAID and an environmental health engineer from Missouri University of Science & Technology, described his experiences in the Science Fellow program. He made a presentation on the program and his involvement/experiences. He outlined potential activities, and urges that department heads make the program known to their faculty. His presentation is attached to the minutes in handout form.

Ray Ali, NIFA National program leader in community and education, presented information by phone. He highlighted the National Needs Graduate Fellowship Program as a vehicle for addressing the department heads' stated concerns over irrigation needs. NNGFP provides both MS and PhD level stipends, and either citizens or permanent residents are eligible. The 2014 program was holding the panel meeting in the near future, and, areas of focus included animal and plant production. Ray went over details of the program, and mentioned that \$2.8 M is available each year, and the success rate is ~25%. Bernie Engle mentioned the tuition waiver requirement as being problematic, and asked what is

being done regarding this? Ray's response was that they are aware of this and are discussing options. When asked about the funding of the NNGFP to Irrigation engineers, he could not say if they have funded or seen proposals in this area.

Dorota Haman asked each department to check their data in the survey on performance metrics that she had recently distributed. There seem to be quite a few errors. There are problems of interpretation of budget numbers, and discussion proceeded on what to do and how to improve the survey. Academic Analytics, a commercial academic performance metrics database being used by some universities, was discussed, and the need to have an accurate comparison for our departments was mentioned.

Terry Howell gave an ASABE update. The processing group task force is trying to revitalize this area and the annual award for food engineering. Global engagement efforts are underway. Activities are ongoing, with a recognition that the task force needs to be sustained long term. This group will be merged with the current international collaboration group. INTL 601 is excited about this. A major undertaking for global engagement group is a white paper that is being circulated. The paper outlines six goals for ABEs, food, energy and water security. That white paper is expected to be approved by the Board of Directors. In May, ASABE is cohosting an event on climate change, and the global engagement group wants to use that as a means of highlighting their emphases. They are targeting a food security conference outside the US in 2016.

Darin Drollinger discussed Feeding the Future. Issue 2 will come out soon. Dr. Joe Walker is the new director of publications, starting in early February. Donna Hull continues to be involved with a few projects.

Terry raised an issue about impact factors of ASABE journals and discussion ensued on the impact of page charges and hybrid models that might be considered.

Next meeting location: Steve Searcy will coordinate as the 210 Chair for 2015-16. The group consensus was to have no meeting in fall, meet in January at a hub city somewhere to cover the regional business. A more detailed discussion will be held at the summer meeting on location and type of meeting. There were suggestions of holding a retreat type meeting. Lalit suggested developing a longer term plan on where the group will meet in future years. He suggested every two years in Wash DC and rotate around country for other years.

Brad Rein asked about the level of engagement of ABE departments in the NAE Grand Challenges. He asked if there a grand challenge that the discipline might generate and address. Ajit suggested that the discipline needs to increase the number of NAE members. Sreekala offered to send out a request for input on grand challenges ideas. Darin Drollinger mentioned that Sonia Jacobson has been invited to an NAE activity that addresses Grand Challenge topics. Suggestions were made about how to get more NAE nominations, including possible meeting with ASABE/NAE members.

Brad Rein shared that he has approval for hiring a national leader for ag engineering, but does not yet have the position description.

Sreekala Bajwa adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Searcy

Secretary