

## **NCAC14 Meeting**

February 27, 2017

Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL

**Attendees:** Marty Draper, Jim English, Frank Zhou, Rick Bennett, Sandy Pierson, Phil Mulder, Brad Day, Larry Madden, Charles Woloshuk, Patty McManus, Carolee Bull, Jim Bradeen, David Wright, Rubella Goswami (guest from NIFA)

Meeting convened by chair Brad Day at 8:00 a.m., followed by introductions

Discussion of status of plant pathology at our universities, refilling positions, future of the Land Grant mission at state universities when pressure is on to bring in overhead dollars.

Discussion of what constitutes “success” in a graduate program. For example, MS holders often get jobs months before graduation, but AAU standards push for PhD and universities put greater value on the PhD.

Who is doing online degrees and online programs? Carolee Bull described Ag Biosecurity Program at Penn State. Darren Eastburn is an online teaching expert; he would be good to invite to your university if you want advice, experience, etc.

### **Rubella Goswami, National Program Leader with NIFA**

NIFA is running on a continuing resolution through April 28, 2017. They’ve been told that all RFAs, including climate change, are all going out as planned, even with the change in administration. She covered the status of competitive programs, non/semi competitive programs, and new tactical science initiatives. (She distributed her presentation to attendees by email on March 3, 2017.)

### **Multi-State Reviews**

Marty Draper reviewed NCERA\_temp184: *Management of Small Grain Diseases*

Generally very positive but concerns with section called “Impact”. They talk about a lot of activities but not impacts. The group had some discussion about the general need for academics to learn how to write impact statements.

Jim English, NCERA137, *Soybean Diseases*

Very active, large group that meets annually and meets with other groups, but the details of who meets with whom over what is not clear. More details would make the effectiveness and impacts of this group more apparent. Same with linkages—need more detail in the presentation. Information exchange is done very well—lots of extension outputs and electronic communications done jointly by this group. Overall, they need to promote themselves more than they do.

## **University Updates**

Participants discussed current challenges and opportunities within their departments, universities, and states regarding higher education and agricultural research.

## **NCAC-14 Business Meeting**

- 1. State Reports**
- 2. Election of officers**—Patty McManus will serve as chair; Marty Draper as vice-chair for the 2018 meeting. University of Minnesota St. Paul campus was suggested as a possible meeting location. Jim Bradeen offered to help with local arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.