**2020 NCAC14 Meeting**

Graduate Hotel Minneapolis

February 26-27, 2020

Attending: Marty Draper (Administrative Advisor), Megan Kennelly (Kansas State University), Jim Bradeen (University of Minnesota), Amanda Gevens (University of Wisconsin), Tesfaye Meniste (Representing Purdue University), Jack Rasmussen (North Dakota State University), Jim Schoelz (Univ. of MO), Loren Giesler (Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln), Sandy Pearson (Texas A&M), Tom Mitchell (The Ohio State University)

Jack Rasmussen (Chair) opened the meeting with introductions of all attending members.

The agenda was distributed prior to the meeting.

Our administrative advisor (Marty Draper) provided an update. The role of the advisor is to be a resource for the committee and clarify any information and general committee oversight for effectiveness. There is also oversight needed to ensure the outcomes are occurring for those needing to show evidence of collaborative grants, etc.

* Extension moving to project level reporting
* NCAC = North Central Administrative Committee; other committee definitions were reviewed.
* “Temp” is in a renewal and rewrite stage
* DC is a development committee
* Monitoring of multistate projects is the main functional role of our committee
* Each institution decides the level of support for committee involvement
* Marty reviewed Hatch dollars and funding cycles – all have to be spent in the current year with those being able to extend over the next FY.
* Federal dollars should not be used to purchase equipment due to the accountability chain (can be done but difficult).
* Hatch dollars can be used to support research activities. Committee support for travel, as well as direct funding research projects are all options.
* Auditing is occurring on Hatch dollars at various institutions.
* This committee currently oversees around 10 committees.
* New projects are initiated by a faculty group.
* Our reports and feedback on committees are needed by early March.
* Projects with support by 3 or more institutions typically will move forward as new projects. Funding is all set and this would come from existing funds.
* NRSPs are national committees that are allocated from individual state allocations.

USDA Policy Update:

* Science blueprint follows the National Science Academy breakthrough science plan.
  + Climate change is back in the plan
  + Grow collaborations among agencies
  + NRCS intends to work with Universities more collaboratively
  + 5 main themes going forward and positive move
  + This document will define what RFAs will be going forward
  + Land-grant.org - Advocacy agency for land-grants. At this site you can see the proposed president’s budget.
    - Explanatory notes – say what the agency plans to do in program areas.
    - Overall proposal – AFRI budget will increase. Reductions in core capacity programs, reductions in hatch, 1890s, and other programs to fund increases.
  + USDA site and search for blueprint – posted on chief science officer’s website.

NIFA Relocation to KC:

* Lost all post award staff
* Funds management and awards management down to only a few leaders that have had extended contracts to stay in DC.
* Concerns about university staff and faculty moving to the KC office
* Starting pay will be around $109K for program leaders
* Grant processing staff will be more competitive relative to our University salaries.
* Current organization structure is very slim. Not listing all program leaders at this time.

Program Reviews:

NC1183 - this is a renewal of the committee:

* Tom Mitchell led the discussion and review of the committee.
* Previous mid-term reviews questioned the committees collaborative work of the team. The new project has addressed this concern. More people involved in the project.
* The recommendation was made to renew the project with minor revision and the most was made by Jack, Sandi seconded – motion passed unanimously.

NCERA224

* This is a mid-term review. The discussion was led by Megan Kennelly.
* There are 17 members on the committee with a mix of entomologists and plant pathologists.
* The recommendation was made to continue this committee by Megan. Motion was made to support Megan’s review and recommendation by Tom and seconded by Jim. The motion passed unanimously.

NCERA184

* Jack Rasmussen led the discussion and mid-term review of the committee.
* This is a committee with 19 members with 15 having extension appointments.
* Group focused on wheat with some work on barley and oats.
* The recommendation was made to continue this committee by Jack. Motion was made to support Jack’s review and recommendation by Sandy and seconded by Megan. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Off-Year Projects

Jack reviewed the past concepts on the main reason of the committee. We are responsible for many committees and we could discuss the committees annually. In the past, the committee would have projects assigned to members and an annual update was presented.

* There are currently 13 committees related to plant pathology.
* Marty will send us a listing of projects and we can select our committees. We should indicate if we would be interested in being an AA for the committee.
* Marty requested the group to let him know if a committee would be appropriate to recognize for the APLU Multistate Committee Award.

Export Control Discussion presented by Marty Draper

* Discussion related to China connections with our faculty was the main topic.
* The change is data ownership when it flows through China and the loss of IP is high.
* Reporting requirements for contributions/gifts from foreign interest is becoming more defined for auditing purposes.
* Many other universities are having this issue and universities are reacting differently to the issue.
* As department heads we need to be diligent about faculty programs and where they are connected to.
* The main point in all scenarios is to ensure there is data protection for our interest.

Graduate student time line (Sandy)

* Sandy shared a timeline that they use at Texas A&M for their graduate students.
* The group discussed timelines.
* TA is required for Ph.D. students at several institutions (undergrad and graduate courses)
* Progress reports vary by institution but annual reporting is common with most.
* This is your professional program and you are expected to treat this as a professional career.
* Idea of streamlining BS and MS combined in 5 years is occurring at K-State
* MN only allows MS entrance and then students can convert after one year to Ph.D.

RCM Budgeting:

* Jack presented that at NDSU they have not chosen to adopt an RCM budgeting model.
* K-State is starting with an RCM, WI has had one for several years.
* Marty stated that at KS when the analysis was done to increase teaching compared to what they could loose with the RCM that the message was to continue to move research forward.
* Intro class teaching done by tenure track faculty at most institutions. Some use of resources to fund teaching positions by online course returns.
* WI mentioned the teaching of summer classes increasing there.

Associate Chairs:

* Jack presented the idea that he is considering adding an assoc chair.
* Sandy has an assoc chair of academic affairs and an assoc chair for extension. 32 faculty in total.
* Tom has an assoc chair at the Wooster campus. Serve for local operations and HR issues mainly.
* Purdue has one assoc chair that helps with advisory and many topics as needed.

State reports were discussed by each representative.

Other discussion:

There is a need to have a current listing of multistate projects to help facilitate other faculty involvement.

Election of officers:

L. Giesler will be the Chair for the coming year.

T. Mitchell is Vice Chair and S. Pearson will host the 2022 meeting at Texas A&M. Tom will coordinate with Sandy for dates and meeting venue, and Tom will take the lead for organizing the business meeting.

Notes recorded by Loren Giesler