

NCAC15/SAC12 Meeting
Little Rock, Arkansas
March 3-4, 2012

The meeting was held at the Peabody Hotel and preceded the Southeastern/Southwestern Joint Annual Meeting held from March 4 -7, also at the Peabody Hotel.

Attendance: Sue Blodgett (Iowa State); Gary Brewer (Nebraska); Lee Solter (Illinois); Steve Yaninek (Purdue); Jim English (Missouri); Phil Mulder (Oklahoma State); Rob Wiedenmann (Arkansas); David Ragsdale (Texas A&M); Art Appel (Auburn); Tim Schowalter (LSU); George Kennedy (North Carolina State); James Harwood (Kentucky); Scott Willard (Mississippi State); Scott Steward (Tennessee); Bob Nowierski (USDA-NIFA); David Gammel (ESA Exec. Director)

The meeting was chaired by Sue Blodgett (Iowa State). The NCAC and SAC committees met jointly for all discussions.

Welcoming comments were made by Rob Wiedenmann, who also managed local arrangements for the meeting.

March 3

I.State Reports

Summaries from each NCAC15 institution were distributed, and individual state reports were presented from both the NCAC15 and SAC12 committees. Several discussion themes and issues emerged from discussion of individual state reports as follows:

Concerns for ability to replace faculty who retire or depart
Concerns with downsizing of faculty, and related concerns with accommodation of downsizing to meet teaching and other needs;
Need for effective strategies for prioritization of faculty replacements;
Need strategies for maintaining expertise in systematics
Need strategies for gaining credit/recognition for teaching across campus landscape
Observations that forensic science programs are becoming more popular; organizational placement varies among institutions

March 4

1.Report from USDA-NIFA.

Bob Nowierski brought out several important points concerning possible changes in research program structures. He noted that AFRI listening sessions had brought out a strong interest in reducing large CAP grant funding in favor of creating more funding opportunities for individual investigators. He noted that the President's budget proposal had suggested a new Crop Protection program that would consolidate 6 program budget lines totaling \$29M. Consolidation would include Expert Integrated Pest Management

(IPM) Decision Support System, IPM and Biological Control, Minor Crop Pest Management/IR-4, Pest Management Alternatives, Smith-Lever 3(d) Pest Management, and Regional Pest Management Centers. Bob emphasized the importance of participation in upcoming listening sessions to provide input on suggested changes in budget alignments and program priorities.

2. Report from ESA.

David Gammel, Executive Director of ESA, presented a brief report on ESA activities and issues. He noted that membership is strong, and the society finances are sound. David noted that the three principles for guiding the future of the society are presented in the 2009 Society's Outcome Statement and available on the ESA website. He updated the committees on the efforts of ESA to host the 2016 International Congress with a suggested location of Orlando. The bid to host the conference is receiving strong support from a variety of international societies. David mentioned that the ESA recruiting brochure is being translated for international use.

3. Discussion and action items.

The committee discussed means by which entomology departments can better compete with other departments and disciplines. The discussion led to action items including 1) development of a CEDA white paper on the topic, "Value of Entomology to Science and Society" (coordinated by Brewer, Mulder, Yaninek, and Schowalter) and 2) Circulation of the CEDA whitepaper, "Crops IPM and Global Food Security (Brewer), and 3) development of a CEDA-based survey on major issues facing entomology and the direction of the science/discipline (coordinated by Yaninek, Blodgett, and Ragsdale).

Several issues were discussed within the context of the "Value" white paper, including 1) how to market and brand entomology as a discipline, 2) determination of the focus audience for marketing and branding, 3) how to address the lack of recognition of Entomology as a department, in contrast to an expectation that entomological issues will be addressed by universities, and 4) how to maintain a critical mass of entomologists to train the next generation of entomologists.

4. NIFA-AFRI listening sessions.

The committee discussed points that should be made in the listening sessions seeking input on distribution of \$29M among 5 or 6 program areas. Some of these points included: 1) the importance of multi-year funding to allow continuity of work, 2) standardization of application deadlines, 3) importance of anecdotal information from department heads and faculty members concerning IPM success, and 4) the importance of retaining area projects that deal with the integration of sophisticated strategies for pest management. As a follow to this discussion, Sue Blodgett would draft a letter with talking points that address these types of issues. These would be used by the northcentral and southern groups in providing input to listening sessions.

5. NCAC15 Business.

Planning for 2013 NCAC15 and SAC12 meetings:

Dave Hogg will serve as Chair and Bill Hutchinson will serve as Recorder for NCAC15. David Ragsdale will serve as Chair and Art Appel will serve as Recorder for SAC12. The two committees will meet jointly

again in 2013. The meeting location is yet to be determined; however, Las Cruces NM, Baton Rouge LA, and the Black Hills, SD were all nominated as sites.

The joint committees noted the loss of Carl Jones and will convey the group's sympathies to his family.