

**NCAC-15 Department Heads Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, June 5, 2017, 7:00-10:00 am**  
**Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Downtown, Union Station Hotel**  
**Executive Board Room**

Attendees: Stephen Cameron (Purdue), John Ruberson (Kansas State), Tom Payne (U Missouri), Sue Blodgett (Iowa State), Gary Brewer (Nebraska), Carol Anelli (Ohio State), NCB-ESA 2017 President Linda Mason (Purdue)

NCAC-15 Chair **Bill Ravlin** called meeting to order ~ 7:03 am.

**1. Background and status of NCAC-15**

Ravlin gave background on recent leadership history for NCAC-15. The group met in 2015 in Manhattan, Kansas with Ruberson as chair, Ravlin as chair-elect for the 2016 meeting at NCB-ESA in Cleveland, OH. The next NCAC-15 meeting was slated for North Carolina, with Dan Herms from Ohio State (OSU) as chair-elect, but very few could attend that venue so the meeting was relocated to the current NCB-ESA meeting. Herms meanwhile stepped down as chair at OSU. Payne was to have become chair-elect for 2017 but given his duties as Vice Chancellor and Dean at Missouri, Ravlin stepped up to serve as 2017 NCAC-15 chair.

• **Election of New officers**

- Secretary 2017/Chair-elect 2018 – Carol Anelli
- Secretary 2018/Chair-elect 2019– Steve Cameron

**2. Introductions; NCB-ESA 2017 President Linda Mason opening remarks/discussion**

President Linda Mason noted that no nominations were put forth this year for NCB-ESA honorary awards (CV Riley, Award of Merit—the top two awards at the branch). Other awards received one nomination (although winners were worthy). Linda emphasized the need to find ways to build a culture of awards. Discussion ensued:

- At TAMU in the '70s, a few faculty took it upon themselves to nominate people as a committee, with the nominees involved. This worked well.
- At U Missouri as CAFNR Dean, Payne made contact early with nominees; he noted need to enthuse academic leadership to make it a priority to identify faculty with a passion for this type of service.
- MSU has a very active awards committee, and VP office pushes chairs to announce award winners.
- Anelli, currently chair of ESA Governing Board (GB) awards task force chair, noted that data from recent ESA membership survey suggests that a substantial portion of ESA members feel unqualified for awards; survey data will be shared with the GB at their summer meeting in June for discussion and possible actions going forward.
- Ruberson noted that some nominees are very uncomfortable being nominated for awards, so it is also a cultural issue.
- Payne added it is easier to nominate when candidate assists with packet compilation, and that nomination/winning adds significance to the awardee's department, college, and profession of entomology.
- Brewer noted ESA is scrutinizing the nomination process required at the national level, part of an attempt to improve nominee numbers.
- Pass-through awards were discussed, including issues surrounding them. If nominee doesn't win a given award at the branch level, nominee is not eligible to be nominated for

Commented [CA1]: Please check for accuracy!-- Carol

that award at national level. Should it be the case that anyone who has won at branch level is eligible to go forward for national level consideration? If so, their packets could be updated and submitted, raising question of whether a time limit should be placed on a nominee's eligibility. If there were many nominees for a given award, a limit (e.g., three) could be placed on nominees submitted from a given branch. This would help with the issue of a nominee not being eligible for consideration at the national level if the nominee did not win at the branch level.

- President Mason noted that NCB leadership has been trying to do more for students in the branch, and this year gave more travel awards than had been budgeted. As noted earlier by Mason, some awards received only 2 nominations (though Comstock received seven, and other NCB student awards received ~4 nominees). Could the branch nominate a "top student" from each department? CEDA could put forward students' names if NCAC-15 member can't attend meeting due to budget or other issues (e.g., "composite" departments, such as South Dakota, where entomology is one of several disciplines), and a representative to CEDA meeting could be sent. Do we allow substitutes at NCAC-15 meeting? Payne thought that in years past, substitutes were permitted. Blodgett added that a more conscious reach-out to "composite" departments could help attendance at NCAC-15 meeting.
- Mason discussed NCB-ESA finances: They have spent down reserves and had more late registrations, so this year's meeting might come close to breaking even, unlike the 2016 meeting. They kept meeting cost down this year by using Purdue's departmental projectors and some departmental/personal computers. Should the branch think about buying a few computers? Perhaps, but still have to pay electric cord fee to run cords to podium. Blodgett suggested that the branch could put out a call to bring such items. Mason added that they assigned student volunteers to monitor borrowed items when presentation rooms were empty.

### 3. NC-15 Administrative Advisor Update - Tom Payne

- General discussion ensued on timing of projects, i.e., being able to get a jump on regional projects when announced so as to coordinate, get projects reviewed and submitted by deadline. If we receive project assignments in fall, we have until December to complete the reviews, because by February they are due for approval/disapproval. Thus, timing for when NCAC-15 meets for CEDA is problematic. Unless we were given project info today (and they don't have it to give), we will need to handle the process electronically. We'd need at least 3 people to take lead on upcoming reviews, to coordinate review of regional projects, followed by ranking. In most cases, experiment stations don't provide any funds; only a few stations have funds set aside to go to meetings. Typically Hatch and regional funds are fully expended on salaries. NIMMS (National Information Management and Support System) electronic system works well; Brewer noted that they've reviewed projects electronically in past, shouldn't be a problem. Mason added that the next few NCB-ESA meetings occur in March, which helps with timing. Payne noted that if we can find out earlier what the projects will be, the directors meet in March and that is when they vote—thus, projects really need to be ready for submission by first of the year. If one knew what the projects would be by ESA's national meeting, then projects could be coordinated at CEDA meeting. Chris Hamilton at U Wisconsin (NCRA Assistant Director and NIMSS System Administrator) has a handle on all projects and due dates, and could also perhaps determine which ones are ending by sunset dates. We should invite her to next CEDA meeting!

**Commented [CA2]:** I believe someone (Payne?) volunteered to contact Chris to extend invitation to Denver informal meeting of NCAC-15.-- Carol

- Climate change—what impact will it have on projects? Pollinator Protection Plan, under Obama administration, had importance in area of urban IPM. Entomologist in DARPA now, related to work on bioterrorism; Department of Defense has funding.
- Blodgett suggests a quick meeting at ESA Denver meeting to review projects and get them done on time. NCAC-15 could meet with CEDA at national ESA in Denver. Payne will check with Chris Hamilton,. If we can't do it there, at least we would know reviews were coming up and could assign at ESA November meeting and do projects electronically.

- **USDA-NIFA Report - TBD, USDA, NIFA**  
No representative attending this meeting, so no report.

- **NC 507 Monarch Project – Sue Blodgett**

NC Monarch Conservation Project—This was a rapid response, terminates in spring 2017; they have submitted a regular project NC 1205, which was approved. They will meet in Denver. In Iowa they have a state conservation plan for monarchs, see [Iowa Conservation Consortium website](#), and they have buy-in from all ag commodities and they also have a pest resistance plan for State of Iowa (Steve Bradbury very active in getting it going). Iowa Conservation Consortium met last year at NCB-ESA, then wrote grant proposal to NIFA; not funded, but will resubmit and make available to other States. Oddly enough, they are getting funds from Iowa pork commodity group, which has hog facilities surrounded by grass which they mow; thus, they are now putting in monarch-friendly areas where once was grass. Last year was a bad one for monarchs—huge storm occurred when were leaving, didn't see many monarchs until August, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation last year. One raging controversy now is how close to agricultural fields should one be planting monarch habitats? Xerces Society is saying not within 120 ft of ag field-- not helpful for Iowa's ag landscape! Students at Iowa State are researching both herbicide drift and insecticide sublethal mortalities. Texas State DNR has \$2M for monarchs!

- **State Reports (Budget, challenges, opportunities, positions, etc.)**

MSU—Budget-wise, has been pretty good the last 3-5 years and are getting salary increases; department has two online summer courses for non-resident students—one is Intro to Entomology (non-majors, two sessions, students worldwide, they do digital collections, 100 students per section), department receives ~ \$800/student; other course is Integrated Studies for Biology, focuses on broader set of topics—sustainability, e.g.,-- non-majors; 70% tuition and fees comes back to department. Yield from two courses ~ \$250K/year, department puts revenue into cost share, start-up packages, renovations, etc. These courses are a great generator of funds. A fixed-term faculty member instructs, and a grad student now completing her degree who wants to teach will be hired as another fixed-term faculty. Start-up packages: department is asked to contribute ~ \$100K per start-up. New Faculty: in past 18 months have made 5 hires, currently in negotiation w/ BioControl position (Del Fosse retired Jan 15). Often have to add on 1/3 for every hire, as spousal accommodation. Barry Pittendrigh arrived in Jul, other recent hires are Will Wetzal (quant ecology), Henry Chung (physiol/molec bio), and a fixed-term applied nematologist (from Hawaii). Had a number of retirements prior. Hope going into next year to propose at least 2 hires. But MSU is under microscope due to scandal surrounding athletic director Larry Nasser, might yield a change in presidency. MSU annually pulls back 1% of all budgets, this year it will pull back 2%, and are at margins on salaries. Salary increases come from general funds; with retirements wouldn't be able to fill positions as can't have salaries on soft funds. Department located in 8 buildings located on both sides of the river; some consolidation would be welcome.

**KSU**—Hiring a landscape ecologist, wide-open description, closes 1 Jul. Recently hired Med Entom, working on zika and dengue, the second female hire in the department! Budget cut of 2.5%, the seventh such since Robeson's been at KSU; on positive note, will have 1% COLA. Preparing for a 3% cut-- email received just this morning. For every 2 positions, get 1 back. Currently department is down to 15 faculty, yet morale good overall. New president is four star Air Force general, KSU grad, starting to identify core areas for university; \$25M in debt from previous president. Enrollments are in decline, will continue due to demographics. Great Community College system in Kansas, KSU trying to develop better flow-in from them. 99% of budget is in people; working hard on donors, seeking endowed pollinator position.

**U Nebraska**—1<sup>st</sup> budget cut since Brewer has been there; hiring freeze presently, 5.4% then 3.2% tuition increases coming up; \$30M cut, most likely to come largely from staff positions. Department has had good spate of hiring, have 19 faculty (some administrative), grad students ~ 35 MS or PhD, ~25 online MS. Small UG degree program, valuable for outreach, cherry-pick some students for grad program. Have been very engaged in online for some time, generate most funds from 110 students who have graduated, and Intro Entomology online course—~ 600 enroll/academic year, even students on campus take online. ~ \$250K year comes from online courses, most of which the departments plows back into students as teaching support, plus the only way to fund start-up. Have had a couple retirements, long term 100% teaching position, and an ARS faculty in the screwworm group. Will use him with staff support to head-up awards committee. Academic program review last year--Ruberson chaired, did great job!

**Purdue**—Pretty good shape, but flat budget. Enrollments rising, college is highest since 1985, 40 UG in fall (highest number in decade). Two retirements and a resignation (systematist) and another retirement (Turpin), plus Pete Dunn (had been full time teaching, was early retirement buy out). Dunn will come back on 15% teaching to cover subjects they can't teach. Pollinator person also took retirement, will come back for partial appointment (just received grant). Department can replace 3 positions. 10% of college retired this year, ~ 30 faculty. College has financial obligation for the coming year, so great financial position for a year. Purdue did a bunch of cluster hires, so likely putting on brakes now, due to State-level decision to curb growth. 25 faculty currently, hired 2 new assistant profs in last yr (one focused on plant/insect interactions, the second on insect/microbe interactions), 1 female 1 male. Need new building but no central funds and can't renovate current building, as prohibitively expensive. Online course returns are no where near as generous as in-person, plus funds go to instructor, not department due to ancient agreements. Contrasts with TAMU forensics—1000 students online, huge money maker for TAMU entomology.

**OSU**—Many interim positions at the college level. Currently at Wooster 9 regular tenure-track faculty; \$33.5 M earmarked for new science building to be largely occupied by entomology, architects have been retained. At main campus in Columbus currently 1 interim chair + 4 tenure-line faculty + 1 non-tenure line professional practice faculty + 0.20 systematist (Norm Johnson); recent retiree (Shetlar, turf entomologist with significant teaching and extension portfolios, expect approval for another position); new Discovery Theme hire (Sarah Short, mosquito molec biol at Johns Hopkins) to arrive fall 2018; 3 new labs with major renovations underway.

**Iowa State**—Had budget cuts so now may raise tuition, their tuition is low; no salary increases this year. Bryony Bonning left for Hoy Chair at U Florida; Ken Hoszler (livestock entomology) retiring—refocused position on public health vectors of human and animal diseases, hoping to get filled. Some support for refilling Bonning position but budgets tight. Small department, ~ 11 faculty, now 9 after the 2 losses. Iowa State is combined Department of Entomology & Natural Resources—500 undergraduates! New building, moving at spring break (going from 3 to 2 buildings for entom); 5 research faculty to move, remaining folks will go to Science 2 building, to be owned by the 2 department groups that Blodgett administers. Advantages are realized due

Commented [CA3]: Gary, is this correct?-- Carol

to sharing between the two disciplines. Some ARS researchers will share some of the new space. Grad numbers down (especially international); to mitigate, grad school had additional funds, put a call out to provide 1<sup>st</sup> yr funding if department had a student they wanted to recruit. Undergrad enrollment plateauing. Very interested in building more distance ed, as now funds will go to department, but hard to incentivize faculty. Positions are the biggest challenge.

**Missouri**— New chancellor, new president. Enrollment way down due to 2015 racial events in Ferguson, though no incidents occurred on campus; nevertheless, very negative impact on legislature, which penalized university with budget cuts, and parents saying unsafe to send kids there. Enrollment also down due to number of high school grads, but agriculture-related enrollment had been going up, and Missouri had been drawing students from IL until IL changed its entrance requirements and tuition fees, leading to Missouri's enrollment plummeting (by several thousand students, lowest in recorded history). Currently in a 3-year budget reduction sequence ending 2020. New governor with balanced budget amendment, which yielded a nearly 7% cut, translated to 12% on the campus, and new president is now requiring a plan within the week to meet these reductions. The college had to give back \$4M; state appropriations are \$33M for the college, so \$4M is significant. University will lose ~ 400 positions, college is losing 12-18 positions, but those are vacant, some retirements. Interviewing new extension entomologist, but in the merged unit (Division of Plant Sciences, includes entomology, crop/soil/pest management, horticulture) they have only 4-6 entomologists.

- **Future CEDA and NCAC-15 Meetings**

- NCAC—Madison, WI Marriott West Hotel, maybe include Skype;
- CEDA-- Sunday morning 18 March, 8:30 am, ESA annual meeting
- Ruberson to email Anelli, who will reserve a room ASAP for NCAC meeting in Madison. Room this year was \$150; perhaps reserving early will allow us to get room for free.

**Commented [CA4]:** John—I think you are contacting me once you and your program team make decision on where NCAC meeting fits into the Madison program.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Anelli 15 Jun 2017