

NCAC-15 MEETING
March 18, 2018 – 2:00 P.M.
Milwaukee Room, Madison Marriott West

Attendees:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMail</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Stephen Cameron	cameros@purdue.edu	Purdue University
Sujaya Rao	sujaya@umn.edu	University of Minnesota
Joel Coats	jcoats@iastate.edu	Iowa State University
Chris Hamilton	Christina.hamilton@wisc.edu	NCRA
Grey Hamilton	Christina.hamilton@wisc.edu	NCRA
John Ruberson	ruberson@ksu.edu	Kansas State University
Carol Anelli	Anelli.7@osu.edu	Ohio State University
Russell L. Groves	groves@entomology.wisc.edu	University of Wisconsin
Jim English	Via ZOOM	University of Missouri
Mike Fitzner	Via ZOOM	NIFA-PPD
Sue Blodgett	Via ZOOM	Iowa State University
Toni Payne	Via ZOOM	University of Missouri
Bill Ravlin	ravlin@msu.edu	Michigan State University

Meeting open 2.03pm

1) Election of Chair for 2020 (secretary 2019). Nominations:

- Sue Blodgett, declined.
- Susan Paskewitz, Russell Groves opposed, but carried.

2) Introduction of Attendees – as per list.

Question: When is NCAC at NCB? Almost always.

Question: What is NCRA? Hamilton will speak to this later.

3) Update from Branch President – Jon Ruberson.

Branch Activities

- Building early career professionals (ECP), adding an ECP Committee of 4 with 1 to serve on the NCB Branch Executive. ECP event gathering Monday night (unique to NCB at this stage).
- Budget – last 3 branch meetings significantly over budget, only \$40K left in reserve, need to bring down meeting costs; Registration is the highest of the branches; attendance very good but student attendees too high a proportion of total for budget (45% attendees – subsidy of \$120/student).

TP – Suggested cost share of student registration with faculty/department – about \$50/student – (idea tabled).

JR – Students are already self-funding so raising registration is difficult; sponsorships are in poor shape; students will be consulted on how to contribute.

TP – Solicit donations to the branch which are solely directed at student subsidy defrayment.

SLC – Is meeting in alternating years a possibility? Possible – JR.

- Heads please encourage students to participate in Student Affairs Committee, run for elective offices, etc. Currently limited student engagement. Incoming chair is Amanda Skidmore. Student member at large of NCB Exec must now be the Chair of Student Affairs Committee. Chair-elect of Student Affairs Committee will be an ad hoc member of NCB Exec to learn ropes (non-voting member).

SB – Do we want to back down on student grants? Likes the idea of Sponsor a Student.

TP – Regionally relevant sponsorships should be pursued for location of meeting – e.g. SC Johnson for Wisconsin, Dow in Indiana, etc. Pick a BIG sponsor for local area of each meeting.

4) Chris Hamilton – NCRA update. National Coordinator of State Agricultural Station Directors.

- Oversees multistate projects for NC region
- 85-90 multistate project, 40% of the whole country total.
- Based and hosted by U Wisconsin (Madison) in Ag Hall
- Executive Director is Jeff Jakobson – based in Michigan State University
- Troubleshoots and fixed problems – oversees NIMS
- Advisor Committee for NC multistate projects is NCAC-15; Admin Advisor Tom Payne. Committee works to review new or renewable projects in Hatch. Chair will assign reviews to NCAC-15 members.
- Federal Budget – Continuing Resolution until March 23rd. A lot of cuts have been proposed across the board – smaller line items were cut in the consolidated President's 2019 Budget including big cuts to Research inc. Ag Research especially to ARS. Please share impact statements with legislators – both multi-state and extension impacts (<https://www.mrfimpacts.org/> and <https://landgrantimpacts.tamu.edu/>)
- Assoc. Public & Land Grant Universities – Research lobbying effort is the “One Ask” program, a single USDA ask for \$200 million that includes AFRI, ARS, etc.
- Western Region – hosts impact writing workshops that can be run over ZOOM or they will travel to you (if you pay for it)
- National Excellence in Multistate Projects – A prize for exceptional projects.

TP – When you have the opportunity to interact with congressional representatives, point out impacts, link them to fed funding, and link them back to outcomes in their district (close to home best)

SR – Is there an update on replacement for Sonny Ramaswamy at USDA? No news – May 5th is his last day.

5) Mike Fitzner – NIFA update. Director: Plant Protection Division at NIFA.

- Slides sent around by Carol
- Recently reviewed all multistates – more travel money.
- RFAs for 2018
 1. Foundational and applied science
 2. Sustainable Ag systems (due in a few weeks)
 3. Ed & workforce development
- Increased emphasis on appropriate acknowledgement of NIFA support (<https://nifa.usda.gov/acknowledgment-usda-support-nifa>)
- NPL liaisons – visit campus, learn about activity in your state
- Budget – continuing resolution & proposed cuts for '18/'19.
- NIFA data available online – investment by state/congressional district.
- Competitive programs – 3 still open (bold in slides) inc. Regional IPM centers. Tactical Science Initiative – detection and diagnostics (NPDN), regulatory systems support (IR-4), development and deployment of protection tools (CPPM) – concern about limited interactions between researchers.

JR – Are grant decisions being held up due to budget uncertainty? Not clear.

TP – Link projects to Hatch funding as a form of defensive lobbying.

6) Departmental Updates

- Iowa – couple of open positions, no permission to run searches for two open vacancies – virus transmission, public health/vectors; pending state budget.
 - 5 researchers are moving to a new building: plants + genetics (1/2 to 1/3 of entomology department moving). Cozy but higher quality space than previously.
 - Dean of Ag position open – search announced soon.
 - Students, grants good -> morale high.
- Minnesota
 - SR there just over 6 months. Head is considered the only new position by administration; they need 2 retirements to get a new faculty line; none pending until 3 – 5 years.
 - New bee building, but much of the entomology building should be condemned
 - Strong grad program but need to build undergraduates due to university funding changes; and a culture shift to larger, low level and online classes to get TAs back.

- Looking at Teaching Assistant Professors – soft money Asst Professor but needs self-funding, online teaching is only within the university so enrolment is sum zero gain with respect to other programs.
- Wisconsin
 - Entomology on the Madison campus (1 of the 19 UW campuses) is holding steady – 14 faculty including 2 USDA placements, 30 grad students, undergraduate major still present < 10 total
 - Budget OK – landed several CAPS projects, several recent endowments, strong teaching to non-majors, teaching is still restricted to Madison but trying to expand to reach whole system; Global Health Entomology program is negotiating a place in department.
 - Search open in Vector Biology (Man + Animals) with offer imminent; multiple unfilled retirements.
 - UW extension will be dissolved as a virtual campus & integrate into Madison campus; unclear how members will be moved within multiple UW colleges.
 - UW Ag college being redesigned due to declining funding (in 2019 biennial budget) – department possibilities include remaining as is, collaborating with others or merging – path unclear. Outreach/Extension not covered under current funding model which will be hard on entomology
- Michigan State
 - Campus climate difficult due to recent sexual harassment scandal, University President resigned – a former state Governor in as interim president. Events have pushed forward discussions about climate & culture
 - Filled 6 positions – 3 tenure track, 3 fixed term; 1 more coming soon; grad students level at 45 or so. Department 24 tenured faculty, 10 fixed; undergraduates – growing minor (35 combined entomology majors & 2 minors) recently add staff recruitment officer.
 - Online earnings good – funds assistantships, equipment
 - In 9 locations on campus – maintain all sorts of things
- Kansas State – 15 resident, 16 adjunct faculty
 - Middle of search for new Provost; creating difficulties with budget, a 5% reduction in 2018, possible 3% reduction mid-year
 - New Medical Entomologist, new Landscape Ecologist, helping make progress against faculty gender balance.
 - Losing Horticultural Entomology faculty
 - Grad numbers down, due to graduation of long term students; severe challenges with student mental health
 - Reviewing budget system – traumatic shift to resource centered model, need to build student numbers (KState numbers overall down 20% or so). Several

Arts-Science cross classes, a mini-research project class (10 hour project, poster at end) good for grad recruitment.

- Ohio State
 - New dean started in July, 6 months of external focus, now looking internal from January onwards; Associate Dean of Research search underway, AD Academic Programs – search starting.
 - Approval for new building in Wooster (June finalized)
 - 2 vacant positions – Shuttler & Herms – looking to external review in late 2018.
 - In Columbus renovating 3 large labs – an interdisciplinary new hire in mosquito microbiomes to take one.
 - Budget model teaching centric – small number of majors but large enrollment in non-majors class, lots of online courses
- Missouri
 - Turnover in upper administration; lot of task forces on budget, academic programs, etc.
 - Academic programs focused on grad programs recommended eliminating/consolidating 27 programs
 - Directed to develop faculty teaching load policies -> helped clarify unwritten rules
 - Examining and reviewing all undergraduate curricula and programs – rationalize programs and find new directions
 - Post graduate programs review launching off the undergraduate review to assess directions
 - 40 faculty in plant division – 5 entomology faculty (2 retirees in last year) + 3 ARS entomology adjuncts; 3 new faculty late 2017/early 2018 – 1 extension entomologist in field crops and forage, 1 plant pathologist, 1 viticulture revitalizing IPM programs.
 - Budget reduction 12% in 2017, potential 15% in 2018 (due to reduced state support and enrollment falls)
 - Graduate student numbers in decline, undergraduate slight decline; strong involvement of entomology faculty in “integrative” areas like plant stress, etc.
- Purdue
 - Significant turn-over in faculty, 6 retirements/quit/deaths since 2016, 2 new faculty hires and 2 searches currently underway.
 - Searches in pollinator biology and insect systematics
 - Grad student numbers down slightly (34), undergrad majors up (35) and teaching to non-majors continuing strong.

- Primary building on West Lafayette Campus (Smith Hall) rated worst building on campus. No corresponding plans for moving department to better facilities.
- 7) Benchmarking of Faculty Achievements for Promotions & Tenure
- SLC proposed looking at tenure and promotion packets across entomology departments to determine if 'benchmark' targets could be developed as guides for junior faculty about what it would take to get promoted.
 - Some reluctance across group to nominate numbers for papers or grants.
 - Many, many ways to cut up these metrics, and identifying what are the most important factors
 - No capturing of extension and teaching benchmarks, and attendant difficulties with % splits (e.g. comparing an 80% research appointment with a 60% one)
 - High variability across institutions in how focused their P& T process is on numerical measurements
 - RG – UW uses qualifying statements for P&T to each rank, not an algorithm to rank achievement.
 - BR – MSU uses publication and grant metrics as part of determining raise pool outcomes each year (one third of input) but not formalized for P&T.
 - Across the group there was limited support for nominating hard numbers, but high willingness to share criteria documents between universities.

Meeting Close 5.15pm