

## NCAC 15 Meeting 2019

March 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Attendees: Andy Michel – The Ohio State University  
Bill Ravlin – Michigan State University  
Brian McCornack - Kansas State University  
John Ruberson – University of Nebraska  
Sujaya Rao – University of Minnesota  
Stephen Cameron – Purdue University (chair)

Apologies: Thomas Payne University of Missouri, NCAC-15 Administrative Advisor

1. Welcome  
2018 Minutes accepted.
2. NRCA (Thomas Payne)  
Thomas Payne sends his apologies, as he was unable to attend due to flight cancellations. His update on behalf of NCAC was relayed by Stephen Cameron.
  - I. Thanks to NCAC 15 Members who served as multistate project reviewers. NCRA is always looking to streamline their portfolio of projects so review is crucial to efficient management.
  - II. USDA budget for FY2019 included an increase of \$63 million, with \$54 million of that going to Budget & Advisory Committee priorities including Capacity Funding for Research & Extension, and AFRI.
  - III. Budget request for FY2020 is for a \$125 million increase to complete the 'One Ask' program and \$25 million increase for AFRI.
  - IV. Experiment Station budget is implementing the 'Strategic Realignment' process to simplify budget request items (from 40 to 3 or even 1 line item), to streamline appropriations process and improve chances for future budget increases.
  - V. Links for details on budget and strategic realignment:  
[Strategic Realignment Committee Update](#) webinar  
[Appropriations & Strategic Realignment 101](#) webinar  
[Ernie Minton Communique to BAA](#)  
[Charge to Strategic Realignment Committee](#)  
[Current NIFA 2018 Discretionary Accounts](#)  
[Draft Single Top Line Recommendation](#)  
[Strategic Realignment FAQs](#)
- discussion of the multi-state mechanisms, state to state differences in use of Hatch funds, and NCAC-15 responsibilities

### 3. ESA Leadership Update (Bill Ravlin)

- I. NCB branch meeting content has been evolving **significantly** over recent years, leading to a reduction in the dominance of field crop entomology; has moved to much more diverse research roster (although it is still mostly applied entomology). Consolidation of field crop entomology faculty positions and of industry players may be responsible, as each is resulting in fewer active research programs in field crops entomology.
- II. The balance of student to full registrants at NCB meeting is an issue still ongoing from last year. Registration prior to conference was tracking to match the 2018 results, the largest branch meeting in recent years.
- III. Postdocs are emerging as a major force within NCB. Postdocs are becoming a longer term demographic, as individual postdoctoral researchers spend longer periods as postdocs prior to faculty or permanent industry posts. This is resulting in organisational changes within the branch with regards to our governance and meeting planning. A larger postdoc pool helps with branch membership diversity (skew more female and less white than the branch has been historically) and helps drive evolution of the conference program planning (e.g. career development is becoming a larger element of the branch meeting). The Early Career Professionals (ECP) forum is helping to develop skills for retention with STEM to help them get through a longer postdoc period. Accordingly, are there changes to be made to the graduate student training elements provided at NCB meetings which would enhance non-academic career options, such as specialist program speakers at NCB? These efforts could reinforce such efforts within departmental graduate programs.  
There was discussion of variation between graduate curriculum models within our respective departments to marry Entomological content knowledge to broader professional development goals.
- IV. Graduate Outcomes survey. No US Entomology department has a better model for outcome tracking than exit interviews. Michigan State is looking to develop instruments to improve their exit interviews.  
Graduate outcomes is a concern across the whole ESA leadership. (looking at 5yr post grad follow up survey).

#### Questions for ESA leadership

- What is the status of the Linnaean Games :  
A committee was formed to investigate a name change in light of Linnaeus' endorsement of racist views. This committee has taken submissions and provided the following advice to the ESA Governing Board
  - i. Keep the name "Linnaean Games"
  - ii. Expand the content range of the quiz, to better test knowledge beyond taxonomy and entomological history.
  - iii. Change competition branding (the poster image of Linnaeus has not been updated since the competition was first begun)
  - iv. Develop better branch organization of the competition

#### 4. Department Reports

##### The Ohio State University (16 Tenure Track Faculty)

- A. Currently searching for a new departmental chair. The search has closed for review and the college is looking for candidates to have an August 2019 start. Current interim chair and associate chair have terms through the end of June.
- B. No open faculty positions
- C. New Science building is coming for the Wooster campus. Entomology faculty/staff are all moving to the new building which will be shared with the Agricultural Technical Institute (ATI). Ground Breaking for the new building will be May 5<sup>th</sup>.

##### Michigan State University (24 Tenure Track Faculty plus 10 Fixed Term Faculty)

- A. Department Chair search will start in Summer 2019, college is looking for an August 2020 start. Current chair is willing to serve in an interim capacity if the start dates needs to be later.
- B. Medical Entomology faculty search is very imminent but has been put on hold by the College. Behavior/Chemical Ecology search is planned for 2020. Several retirements pending which will drive stepwise turnover in faculty composition.
- C. Overall, the Department is very healthy. Student composition is 40-45 graduate students, stable across recent year but there is some capacity to grow graduate student numbers. No internally funded TA's for the Entomology program but 5 TA's are funded through a general science class that the department contributes to teaching. Undergraduate enrolments stable at 15 or so majors and an equal number of minors in Entomology. Faculty research funding very strong at \$350-400k in competitive awards/faculty member.

##### Kansas State University (15 Tenure Track Faculty plus 3 Research Assistant Professors)

- A. Brian McCornack is the newly official Interim Head of Department. Was made official in December 2019. College is looking for a new Dean of Agriculture.
- B. New Assistant Professor in Landscape Ecology, and have added a new non-tenured faculty member. Search for a Veterinary Entomologist will open soon.
- C. Graduate student numbers are 19, the lowest for the department in a long time.
- D. No current major in Entomology at K-State. Enrollment in the dedicated Entomology minor program has increased to up to 50, with over 70 who enroll in Entomology's research experience class, which is being used as a recruiting tool to the minor. Entomology has become a "home" department for majors from across the Ag College who aren't getting research experiences in their current major.

##### University of Nebraska, Lincoln (20 Tenure Track Faculty, with 2 on full administrative appointments outside of the Department).

- A. 3-4 faculty retirements pending and will result in reorientation of faculty priorities. For instance the Urban Entomology retiree will not be replaced.
- B. New faculty position in Crop Entomology and Insect Science focused on Undergraduate teaching (through the One Health program within UNL). A non-tenure track, hard funded position in Landscape Ecology & Pollinators has also been added.

- C. Recent faculty hires have been budgeted to off-campus research sites, creating the risk that faculty lines could revert to other parts of the College of Ag in the event an incumbent leaves (rather than default back to Entomology).
- D. Hiring a new insect diagnostician with Extension responsibilities.
- E. Student enrollment 31 Grad Students (13 PhD, 18 MS) and for undergraduates 21 Majors and 19 Minors in Entomology.
- F. 4 new faculty positions are being pitched in 2019. Must align with college-level multidisciplinary focus areas; but could end up being assigned to any of the multiple departments who collaborated in pitching the position before the faculty search was begin (rather than afterwards as would be tradition in a multidisciplinary or cluster hire)
  - a) Pesticide Resistance in Livestock
  - b) Vector biology - zoonoses
  - c) Plant-Pathogen Interactions
  - d) Evolution of Pesticide Genetics
- G. University is going to Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) Model but timing is still unknown (likely to be at least 3yrs though 5 is judged more realistic from past experience at other university's making this switch).
- H. Are undertaking a major revision of their Promotion & Tenure documents.
- I. Decent central support for the Entomology Departmental priorities including the purchase of 10 new insect growth chambers
- J. Enrollment in their Online Masters has declined (100 → 70) looking at curriculum revisions to reverse this trend but significant competitors have emerged this space, whereas the program was unique in the US until several years ago.

#### University of Minnesota (18 Tenure Track Faculty)

- A. 6-8 retirements are pending from amongst the faculty.
- B. New faculty position in Functional Genomics has been created through an MN State Legislative program which directed the faculty line to Entomology
- C. No Entomology Major, 18 undergrads enrolled in the Minor. Has advertised for a non-tenure track Teaching Assistant Professor position to grow and tend UG students.
- D. Department culture is a major problem. No willingness to change teaching loads, no desire to create online classes, and a complacent attitude to cancelling classes that don't hit enrollment targets.

#### Purdue University (20 Tenure Track Faculty, with 2 on full administrative appointments outside

- A. 2 retirements pending. Horticultural Entomology extension faculty search just concluded with negotiations underway. Search for an endowed chair in Urban Entomology planned for Fall 2019/Spring 2020.
- B. New faculty hires in Pollination Biology and Systematic Entomology starting in 2019 (Spring and Fall semesters respectively).
- C. College of Agriculture has turned over almost entire senior admin staff in the last year with new Dean, Associate Deans for Research and International Programs, Assistant Dean in Extension and a current search for Associate and Assistant Deans in Teaching.

- D. Undergraduate numbers up strongly (to 35) based on a revised UG curriculum and strong recruitment. Graduate student numbers stable at 30, but recent assistant professor hires should boost graduate recruitment.
  - E. Ongoing challenges with facilities. Two thirds of faculty and most specialist space are within Smith Hall which has been listed for demolition (but without plan for new location), while dedicated entomology greenhouse space and BSL2 mosquito containment insectary are planned for demolition to rebuild the Forestry Building. College is conducting a space master planning exercise in 2019 which will hopefully result in firmer plans for the future.
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- 5. Election of Chair for 2020 Meeting  
Brian McCornack (Kansas State University) elected unopposed.

Close: 3:50pm