**NCAC-24 Annual Meeting**

**Tucson, Arizona**

**University of Arizona**

**1/10/18 – 1/12/18**

Present: Brian Myers, Becky Lawver, Mike Retallick, Richard Clark, Mark Russell, Jon Simonsen, Jonathan Velez, Tracy Kitchel, Scott Burris, Tracy Rutherford, Edwin Lewis, Daniel Foster, Frank Hodnett, Steve Brown, Rob Terry, Claire Gill, Jason Ellis, Eric Kaufman, Bobby Torres, Karen Plaut, Jason Emmert, Matt Raven, Wes Harrison, Mark Balschweid

Chair Balschweid brought the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on 1/11/18 in the Sabino Room at the University of Arizona.

Introductions were done with 24 in attendance.

Chair Balschweid explained the purpose of NCAC-24. Main mission to promote research, talked about the history of the NCAC-24 committee. Both Edwin Lewis from USDA NIFA and Steve Brown from USDOE were both present and an indication of our improved communications with relevant agencies.

Balschweid described the following activities that NCAC-24 accomplished in 2017:

1. Boone and Myers establishing a process for a development committee for launching a multistate project. That has been loaded onto the AAAE website and can be accessed at <http://aaea.wildapricot.org/NCAC-24>
2. Retallick, Burris, and Ewing professional matrix and template
3. Working at launching our own Web site and try to break away from the AAAE Web site
4. Rudd launched a group to compile national benchmarks for units
5. White paper Myers and Russell and others – who are we and what are we about? Create that foundation of what we are about
6. Terry and Torres led an effort to review RFPs over the last several years to look at how social science has been included in USDA NIFA RFPs
7. USDA NIFA conducted some listening sessions, Newman, Terry, Rudd and Balschweid strategized how to maximize NCAC-24 impacts on those listening sessions – 4 were scattered around the country. Represented in Maryland, Atlanta, Kansas City but were unable to get any one in the California one. Several submitted feedback through the electronic portal.

NCAC-24 is more of a think tank that strategizes how we position our units and our scholars within our units to be as effective as possible.

Bobby Torres – the University of Arizona happy to host the meeting again. Went over basic overview of logistics (breaks, meals, etc.). No formal arrangements for dinner but many options both on campus as well as Main Gate area. Dean Burgess is currently in New York but hopefully will be able to join us tomorrow for a welcome. No formal tour of campus but Torres will be happy to point out points of interest. Registration was done on-line.

National Reporting System where we submit Minutes into and have to be approved by the committee. Advisor formally authorizes the meeting and consequently we need to submit a document that we have met. Russell moved and Retallick seconded the approval of the 2017 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote and 2017 Minutes were approved.

Committee Administrator Comments from Karen Plaut. In past years have emphasized the need for us to move forward, how important education is for the future of our universities. Have developed into how these committees should model how these groups should work. Complementary of the progress and work the committee has done. Keep on the great work, good to have a NIFA representative. Moving in the right direction and continue to be creative and scholarly to move forward. Part of the authorization allows you to get money from the Experiment Station for attending.

Retallick, Burris and Ewing were charged to look at a research capability template. Retallick reported on progress and discussion followed. Deans have been asking what are our research capabilities. Excel Spreadsheet to show us where the group is currently and how we need to hone it. How are we going to use this data both locally and nationally. The NCAC-24 Research Capacity Template was passed out (Retallick has the electronic copy of handout as well as Excel template). Russell asked purpose – how does the group see the use of this type of template. Terry sees it as a communication tool for our Experiment State Directors and a tool that carries over to Department heads on campus plus uses it with NCAC-24 to foster research across institutions. Myers will use it with young faculties developing multi-state teams and Hatch projects. Potential need to add priority areas beyond the AAAE NRA. Lewis talked about the need for diversity on our review panels. Created a database for that purpose and that gained a lot of traction. Social Sciences have been very integrated into the AFRI proposals. NIFA has a lot of flexibility on how they guide the research programs and competitive grant programs. Every year NIFA is searching and looking for new faculty members to sit on panels. The need for research on education and communication just not the application of those in larger projects. Terry – is the design good, how do we keep it up to date and then worry about how we push it out. Balschweid wants us to launch what we have rather than keep talking and trying to make it perfect. The group endorsed the progress has been made and for the group to continue forward.

Break at 9:30

Tracy Rutherford – National Benchmarking – started looking at Academic Analytics. Where can we go to get data where we can compare ourselves to each other – e.g. articles, grants, etc. Looked at how other departments have done benchmarking and publishing those benchmarks. Went back to how we describe what scholarship is. Describe both qualitatively as well as quantitatively measure what we are doing, how are we making an impact. Came up with seven indicators areas – how do we get under the same umbrella –

The seven indicator areas are:

1. Leadership
2. Relevance
3. Scholarship
4. Innovation
5. Funding
6. Student mentoring
7. Citizenship and service

More accountability is increasingly becoming more important for public universities. A complex project to put some boundary conditions around and faculty is broadly defined. Broad discussion of how these categories integrate into RPT at various universities and how they are defined. Plaut recommends that professional societies should not be involved with this and that they be kept separate from these benchmarks. It was recommended to take out anything that could be interpreted as a prescription. Rutherford’s group was recognized for its stellar work on the document. Myers raised the question about what the title should be. Also asked if it should be a recommendation of the group. As a NCAC we have a great amount of flexibility. Rutherford’s group will incorporate major suggestions and provide a version 2 back to the group.

Edwin Lewis – USDA NIFA Comments. Sonny Ramsawamy will be wrapping up around the end of April, his tenure is coming to an end. The government is on a continuing resoluation until January 19. Been directed to keep moving RFAs on through. Keep moving forward on the majority of RFAs. Higher Education Challenge Grant will be rolling out end of January or early February. Nelson reported that the Education RFA will be released at the end of February – ELI (Educational Literacy Initiative). Related to continuing resolution is the discussion taking place congressional directives, one very relative to educational portfolio. Increasing diversity in agriculture career fields. Focus on increasing diversity in Ag Career fields. Structure in NIFA – recent hires to handle 1894 portfolios, Ariel Zackerman to provide leadership to most undergraduate portfolio, Ray Elle – graduate programs, LeBeau – SPECA portfolio. RFA Editing team streamlining all language is consistent across all of the RFAs. Response has been drafted and sent to Sonny for his review and endorsement. Lewis offered to have a conference call to let us know of the final version of the response that was endorsed. Working on a road map of USDA and how the things we are working on align with the new roadmap and if we need to realign or not. Terry asked about what is being done with the data gathered from the listening sessions. Lewis was not sure where it is currently at but assured it will be used. Balschweid thanked Lewis for being here to represent NIFA to NCAC -24. Encouraging that we are having some impact through our relationship with Lewis.

Terry – participation in the listening sessions. Trying to communicate the information from the White Paper. Created a PPT to share that information, had 5 minutes to share that with the group and allowing for questions and answers. Good opportunity to interact with people that we typically do not typically meet with and have a better idea of how to collaborate with them. Balschweid encouraged us to let the group know if there are other opportunities for this group to be represented.

Unit Leader, Department Head development. Cohort of new administrators and Myers requested some time on the agenda to discuss. Myers, 6 new relatively new Chairs – try to use opportunities like this to get together for both support and professional development. For example talked about faculty evaluation and then staff evaluation. Get on Zoom once a month and also at appropriate meetings to get together. The current group consists of 6, however the profession is currently going through another change of chairs, looking for guidance – should it be endorsed by NCAC-24? Should new cohorts be formed to keep them at appropriate size and keep them nimble? The process has been very organic and at the same very relevant. There are a number of units going through leadership change. Balschweid recommends that a new cohort talk to Myers to see how the existing one was formed.

11:45 AM to 1:15 PM – Lunch

Dave Doerfert –Zoom Meeting – Ag Communications Task Force Report – Dwayne Cartnell, Ricky Telg, Marilyn Trefz, - discussion on the findings of the Task Force. There is need for a common place for Ag Comm faculty to come together. Going to start with Zoom and has the capacity to handle all Ag Comm faculty in the country. Doerfert reported they will be doing three sessions this Spring. There was discussion around the proposal. The group also seeked input from the panel regarding potential new names for NCAC-24.

Balschweid – does the name for NCAC-24 need to be changed. Asked for thoughts from the group. Complex question – make it too narrow does not really accurately capture what we do but make it too broad then too many views at the table.

2:45 – 3:00 PM – Break

Group picture was taken during the break.

Terry – Monsanto reached out to Agricultural Education to talk about Monsanto efforts to let people know about modern agriculture. 31 met in St Louis this week with Monsanto to talk about what types of partnerships could be formed to help their interaction with consumers. Terry thinks there are some opportunities to partner with private groups and NGOs to teach people about agriculture and food systems.

White Paper – has been finalized and uploaded to the Web site

Myers – starting a multi-state project. Establishing a NCDC project.

Foster – Supply and Demand study from 2018, 93 reporting institutions. Foster has electronic copy of handout.

Brown – Report from the United States Department of Education. Brown will share the PowerPoint presentation with Balschweid.

Preparation for Tomorrow – Rutherford has made changes to the Benchmark document. Torres will have v2 copies tomorrow. Continue to think about open positions. Raven has been nominated for Vice Chair. Things to continue to consider is a stand-alone Web site. Perhaps need a committee for a Web site. Also need to determine where we will meet next year. Newman suggests Washington DC next year.

**Friday – January 12, 2018**

Chairman Balschweid called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. He reviewed actions from yesterday. First action was the template for research capabilities and the overall acceptance of the group of the progress the group has made.

Second action was the report of the Success Indicators from the Rutherford et al. group. Second version was passed out and reviewed. Discussion followed on the Success Indicators document. The document should be considered organic and should be used in order to determine future edits. Foster suggested that we add an adoption date of January 2018. Myers moved to adopt the document and Russell seconded. Discussion followed. When sending it out it should be contextualized. Should it be marked draft or not. Discussion is the unit of analysis the faculty member or faculties as a group. Friendly amendment that it be Version 1 January 18 in the footer as well as other minor edits. Rutherford will distribute revised document as Version 1. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Retallick updated on the Social Sciences Sub-committee of ESCOP. Organized around the Experiment Station Regions. There are six disciplines on the Social Sciences Sub-committee. They keep a pulse of what is going on in and out of the beltway. Communication between NIFA and this committee and has turned into a two-way conversation. Spent one meeting on a GAP analysis of what the calls are looking for and what the six disciplines are doing. Has resulted in changes in the language of some of the calls. NSF came in with a conversation for impacts and outcomes. Environmental sustainability entered into the conversation. Big Data was the main topic last year of the sub-committee. The main them was what questions can be answered by Big Data regarding the human dimension of agriculture? Talk about workshops and seminars on how to use Big Data. Next meeting is the end of February 2018. Discussion followed on Big Data. Their main purpose of the groups is advocacy and promotion of social science research within the context of agriculture and food systems.

Terry – AAAE – Next date is May 15-May 18 in Charleston SC. Private and public partnerships. Paper proposals due 1/22 and posters on 2/23 and awards on 3/2. Probably will have a pre-conference day.

Balschweid – Update on AAAE strategic plan. Brought together the Board of Directors to digest the data and pull out the themes. Four Goal areas, meant to be inclusive as possible. There are 10-18 members on each team. May 15, Tuesday AM would be the next NCAC-24 meeting at the AAAE Meeting. 8:00 AM to Noon.

Retallick discussed NCAC-24 specific Web site. Time to check again to see if we can house a NCAC Web site on the appropriate NIFA Web server. All Experiment Station Directors pay into the system hosted at Clemson University.

Plaut talked about the process for getting a multi-state project reviewed and approved. Gets assigned to the appropriate NPL and have 30 days to review. Then passed up the line. Has to be sponsored by two Experiment Station Directors, typically both from the same region. Clare Gill and Wes Harrison will review the proposed new multi-state project. Balschweid will send to Gill and Harrison and copy Plaut.

Election of Vice Chair and Secretary – Matt Raven was nominated for Vice Chair. Four year commitment, 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair. Secretary has a 6 year commitment. Raven elected by voice vote. Balschweid called for nominations for the group. Terry nominated Kitchell and Kitchell agreed to serve. Kitchell elected by voice vote.

Dates and location for the 2019 NCAC-24 meeting. Terry, in conjunction with APLU, has made some connections with people on the hill. Newman has some great connections. There will be a new director of NIFA so it makes sense for us to be in Washington DC next year. APLU has been able to host us the past several times when we were in DC. Tentatively scheduled for 1/10 – 1/11 in Washington DC.

Terry mentioned that part of the new Farm Bill is a call for a position for ag youth development coordinator in NIFA. Burris is not sure where it is in terms of the draft of the new farm bill. Brown stated there is no connection between the FFA Charter and this potential position. 500 USDA paid internships not only in DC but across the country. Applications will be opening January 22-26, 2018.

Myers has a general question for the group regarding connecting Extension to this group. There are possibilities for ancillary groups to take advantage of the multistate projects and administrative committees as long as the group continues to adhere to the objectives of the relevant committee. Should not only focus on Extension though given this is Hatch Act Funds.

Balschweid encouraged us to think about what groups are not here that should be. California tends not to participate in any multi-state projects, just not agricultural education. Discussion followed about the ROI on this meeting.

Balschweid recognized Plaut, Brown and Lewis. Also recognized Torres for hosting. The group recognized Balschweid’s leadership. Myers moved to adjourn and Retallick seconded. Adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt R. Raven