

July 7, 2008

NAUFRP Executive Committee Conference Call

Participants: George Hopper, Hal Salwasser, David Newman, Jo Ellen Force, Perry Brown, Mike Kelly, George Brown, Peg Gale, Barry Goldfarb, Tim White, Dan Keathley, Randy Nuckolls, Terri Bates

Planned Discussion Items: BAC, 2008 General Assembly, Undergraduate Education, NRI, Appropriations Update, Team Diversity

BAC meets in two weeks; Dick Brinker will attend. This will be the first discussion on priorities for the 2010 budget cycle. Last year (FY 2009), BAC dropped RREA as a priority. George Hopper sent the BAC chair (Scott Smith, Dean at Univ. of KY) a letter in late March on behalf of the Executive Committee objecting. There has been no response. George will give Dr. Smith a call. For the coming BAC meeting, NAUFRP's priorities continue to be the same: McStennis, RREA and NRI. There was general consensus that NAUFRP's position and consistency on RREA is reasonable. Practically, we don't expect BAC to change because they are predominantly ag people and not aligned with natural resources. Dick shared the BAC member list. George Hopper will follow up with Scott Smith.

Mike Kelly and Tim White discussed their meeting in May with the NRI staff at CSREES. They pursued the NAUFRP proposal previously submitted to Colien Hefferan, the NRI allocation process and the opportunity for incorporating McStennis Strategic Plan priorities into NRI. The NRI program leaders say there is plenty of opportunity for forestry and there is more advantage to dispersing the funds the way they are versus a targeted area approach. Mike and Tim believe the NRI panels are the best approach and that NAUFRP's approach should be multi-faceted, sustained, targeted and repeated contact with the NRI NPLs and panels. The notes from the recent meeting will contain some suggestions on how NAUFRP might mount and sustain that effort. The NRI staff appear to have a lot of similar groups coming in for the same reasons. It also appears that the national program leaders have a lot more authority in writing the RFAs than assumed. The NRI program leaders say they consider stakeholder input especially with new program dollars. NAUFRP's dialogue with Colien seems to be of no avail on this issue. A key timeframe for input is November; specific wording can be suggested like adding the word "forestry". Randy noted in all candor that we've been intermittent with our efforts; we need sustained pressure. We also need to watch and see how things fall out with the research organization transition at USDA. Another comment was the NRI staff appears to view NAUFRP as a stakeholder versus a partner. George Hopper stated it was important to stay with a plan of sustained effort and share Tim White and Mike Kelly's report not only with the Executive Committee but also with the general membership. We have the data showing how little NRI monies are allocated to forestry. Other comments: we have a partnership with Dan Kugler's group at CSREES but not with NRI. NRI allocate by the number of proposals received. It was asked if we can bring NRI staff to the NAUFRP annual meeting to discuss how to get more of our people to submit proposals. It was also noted that the FAEIS panels were done differently.

Dan Keathley has submitted a proposal to CSREES on undergraduate education. It covers several aspects including how to attract students, engage the best ones and provide a balanced program. Funding is requested for the planning process which will take place over the 08-09

academic year with a product delivery date of June 2009. Dan will report on this to the General Assembly.

Plans are for the NAUFRP Executive Committee to meet all day on Tuesday, November 4th and the General Assembly all day on Wednesday, November 5th. The reception will be the evening of November 4th (election day). Any ideas for workshops? Perry noted that it is about time for the Biennial McStennis Meeting. We could take two hours as we did in Pittsburgh. There was consensus on this. Perry will talk to Catalino.

Randy noted that the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee has marked up its FY09 bill. McStennis is at \$26 million. He assumes they did not follow any of the direction in the President's request. The full committee will probably finish later this week, however Randy doesn't know where it will all go given the experience of recent years and that it is an election year.

George noted that Steven Daley Laursen has become the Interim President at University of Idaho and that we are without a Policy Chair. His inclination is not to fill it for the remaining six months of his term and let Hal begin with a fresh slate.

Congratulations to Perry on assuming the position of Associate Provost for Graduate Education at University of Montana. Perry noted he would continue to carry out his NAUFRP responsibilities and that this new position is not intended to be permanent for him.

Randy said we need to monitor the new order at USDA and the implementation of new Farm Bill Programs. He recommended the Research Chair handle this.

George would like to hold a member-wide conference call later this summer. Randy suggested it happen after more is known on appropriations – maybe the 3rd or 4th week of July. Tim White and Mike Kelly's report from their May meeting at CSREES/NRI will be sent to the full membership as well and their recommendations to be discussed.

Please review the BAC list and make calls on supporting RREA if you see names you know. Let Dick Brinker know if you make any calls.

George Brown noted that plans for a Team Diversity meeting this fall have been postponed and will likely occur early next year.

George will also send the NAUFRP request for funding guidelines to the full membership.