

**APS Exec / FAC Conference Call Minutes**  
**Dec 11, 2007 - 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, EDT**

1. Role call – M. Smith  
Present: Barb C., Jan L., Randy R., Danise B., Ray M., Margery D., John R., Steve N., Michelle B., Marci S.  
Absent: Wayne W., Mike B., Jim M.
2. Approval of Nov 14, 2007 minutes: No corrections or comments. **Motion to approve, seconded; vote called – passed unanimously**

**Informational Items Only:**

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> National Soybean Rust meeting – Louisville, Dec 12-14
4. Departure of Tara Schafer and Sharon Burtman (meeting planner/meeting marketing) (Nelson/Hope)  
Corie Dacus, a former employee, is temporarily replacing Tara's position
5. National Plant Disease Recovery System meeting – Don Huber, chair (Fall 2008)
6. Meeting of the Americas – Letter to presidents went out this week.
7. Restructuring of FAC – meeting tentatively set for Jan 10, 2008 at headquarters

**Brief Comments:**

8. Brief review of culture collection workshop, Nov 13-14 (Bjerkness): There were about 20 in attendance with good agency representation and robust discussion. The working group will continue and work on a proposed system. Scott Gold is writing an article for Phyto News – February which will be sent to Exec prior to publication
9. Brief review of CSREES Stakeholders meeting (Martyn): This was a good meeting and there were many common themes specifically in relation to the paper submitted by APS
10. Brief review of Council of Scientific Presidents meeting (Martyn): Not a lot of business is conducted here but there were very good speakers. A white paper allowing USDA employees to take leadership roles in professional societies will be submitted soon. No one from APS' presidential lineage will attend the May meeting due to conflicts with the HOC meeting at headquarters.
11. Auxiliary meeting conference call update (Moyer / Christ)? There is still work to be done and a plan to be developed for this group. SPB wants to be informed but not active in the process or development of business models.
12. PMN MOU update – getting closer. CSSA / ASA ready to sign after a few minor changes. This should be finalized in the next few weeks and presented to council at midyear.
13. Official support letter for NRI. See attachment.
14. Chinese Society of Plant Pathology membership proposal – ready to go out officially. (See attachment): Only one comment was received from council and that was a query regarding reciprocal agreements with CSPP for APS members. Steve has responded to CSPP with additional questions. We have already received their first membership list for APS.  
**Actions: Ray will follow-up with the official agreement and a note explaining the omission of the publication component at this time.**  
**Staff to include notice in the APS Newscapsule with the outcomes of this agreement.**

**Discussion:**

15. Discussion of reappointments for 2007-08. See spreadsheet attachment from Marci. Ray has discussed the EIC appointments recently with Margo and they will meet prior to council and submit a slate of candidates for approval at Midyear. Margo is willing to stay on as Pubs Chair. That would be voted on at Midyear as well. If there is a new appointment for pubs chair that person should be at the Midyear meeting and pubs board meeting.  
**Actions: Ray will contact Darin regarding his willingness to continue as Director of OEC**  
**Marci will let Ray know Jose Amador's eligibility to serve another term on Foundation and if there are any term limits to Cofarm**

Additionally: Jacque has requested an appointment to PPB in the position of Food Safety. Their recommendation is Trevor Suslow. **Motion made to approve the appointment, seconded: vote called – passed unanimously (Michelle will forward template to Danise.)**

16. Future dates for exec/fac conference calls (Jan – Jun 2008): The call dates are now set for January through June 2008 for the second Wednesday of each month at 9 am Central/10 am Eastern. **Marci will send notice to Exec/FAC with list of dates.**
17. Request from John Hammond to support Frontiers in Agriculture meeting (Nov 2008). See email attachment. We need to have a policy going forward on how we respond to these type requests. **Action: Ray will contact Sally of OIP for their input on the request for support of Frontiers in Agriculture Meeting**
18. Request from Karl Niklas, President-elect of Botanical Soc. of America to participate in an educational initiative “Planting Science”. See email attachment. This really falls under what the Ed Center is doing and also OPRO. **Action: Ray will contact the Ed Center EIC and OPRO directors for their input on the Planting Science project.**
19. Suggestions for APS Governance Structure ad hoc committee?  
Ray is soliciting names to serve on this committee.
  - this needs young professionals for their perspective
  - should not be dominated by current council/officers
  - what about a division councilor?Everyone should give thought to this and send suggestion for committee members to Ray for consideration along with a description of their qualifications or what they might bring to the discussion. Ray wishes to have a committee in place to announce at midyear council.
20. Midyear council meeting agenda topics: Ray will be having discussions with staff on midyear topics

Other:

- The OPRO meeting and media training was very well done. They are redefining their major point of outreach to the press
- JSPP – the Japanese society of plant pathology will send their President with a plaque and certificate to be presented at our centennial meeting
- Need to make membership aware of new presentation technology as a new opportunity. Comments thus far have been very positive

#### **Carry-Over Action Items from Nov 14 Exec/FAC Conference Call:**

1. Officer’s Retreat update -need to follow-up on action items
2. Exec/FAC encouraged to review timeline on APSnet and submit suggestions/comments
  - need more images; Kurt Schroeder putting these together
  - Special, personal, communication campaign to Emeritus group; encouraging their attendance and conveying what will be offered (Steve N.)
3. USDA Citrus Greening workshop, Washington DC (December): Ray will let Jacque Fletcher know of this invitation.
4. APS Staff to develop a list of Departments with pertinent dates such as Centennials.
5. J. Leach will respond to JSPP indicating a commemorative plaque and/or ‘congratulatory letter’ would be appropriate for centennial recognition. Invite the president or president-elect to the APS meeting where he could present the plaque at the presidential reception.
6. Request from National Plant Pathology Chairs/Heads meeting to support a speaker, Dr. Marla McIntosh, University of Maryland. Chair of the AAAS committee– ‘Aiming Higher–Advancing Woman in the Agricultural Sciences’. Consensus to offer \$750 for travel as part of APS’ support for the joint AAAS/APS/ASA committee. Request that her presentation be recorded and posted on the PMN site along with her ppt. as part of the ‘seminar series’.
7. Ray M. will send the one page summary of the basic proposal, minus the ‘5 free articles’ issue to Council indicating that we are going forward with the CSPP ‘experimental’ membership program.
  - This has been circulated to council and will be sent to CSPP soon.

8. R. Rowe will send out request again for response on FAC restructure.  
**-This has been completed and a proposal will be brought to council at midyear**
9. Ray M. will remind PPB the protocol for requests to 'sign onto support letters' for various federal initiatives should be submitted to both Exec as well as PPB. Any letter or 'sign on' will be from the president.

### Attachments:

#17. From: Ray Martyn [mailto:Rmartyn@purdue.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 10:13 AM

To: Hammond, John

Subject: Re: Possible APS support for Multinational Agricultural Research and Development meeting

John: T

Thanks for your email. APS typically does not support things like this (at least as far as I am aware), but I will bring it up next week on our monthly conference call. I'll get back with you after that. Thanks, Ray

Ray D. Martyn, Professor

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Rmartyn@purdue.edu (e-mail)

From: "Hammond, John" <John.Hammond@ARS.USDA.GOV>

Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2007 18:10:12 -0500

To: <miller.769@osu.edu>, <james.moyer@ncsu.edu>, <rmartyn@purdue.edu>

Cc: <Mard.agrd@gmail.com>, <abedgera@volcani.agri.gov.il>

Subject: Possible APS support for Multinational Agricultural Research and Development meeting

I am not quite sure who such a request should be directed to, or how a request should be submitted - so I am directing this jointly to the Office of International programs and the APS leadership.

I am among a number of U.S. members of the organizing committee of a meeting being put together by the Multinational Agricultural Research and Development (MARD) program - a partner of the U.S.-Israel BARD program. As the name implies, MARD is a multinational equivalent of BARD (though without the statutory funding and endowment of BARD).

The meeting, scheduled for November 3-7, 2008, is titled "Frontiers in Agriculture - Biotic and Abiotic Stress in Plants", and is to be held at Aristotle University, Thessoloniki, Greece. The purpose is to bring together scientists from the various countries of the Middle East, including Israel and the Palestinian Authority, to discuss common agricultural problems and to foster cooperation. Participation of invited experts from the broader international scientific community will be included. Goals include establishing a platform for synergistic collaboration between MARD scientists, and to identify common, practical and sustainable research challenges, directions, and opportunities of new development given the special requirements of the region.

Sponsorship is anticipated from not only the in-house resources of MARD, but also contributions from Purdue, UC-Davis, Cornell, and USDA-ARS, with additional resources from seed companies, diagnostic companies and others such as scientific societies with related interests.

One session is planned on Plant-pathogen Interactions, (including viruses, bacteria, fungi and nematodes), with planning by Neal van Alfen (UC-Davis), Radwan Barakat (Hebron University, Palestine), Ghandi Anfoka (Al Balqaa Applied University, Jordan), John Hammond (USDA-ARS). Raed Alkowni (American=Arab University, Palestine), and Saul Bidderman (Hebrew University, Israel).

An additional session on Disease Diagnosis and Control, to be organized by John Hammond (USDA-ARS), Ghandi Anfoka (Al Balqaa Applied University, Jordan), Saul Bidderman (Hebrew University, Israel), and Abed Gera (ARO Volcani Center, Israel).

The estimated budget for supported costs for scientists from the Middle East (approx. 100 participants) to participate in the meeting is \$76,000, of which some \$55,000 is currently anticipated from MARD, Purdue, UC-Davis, Cornell, and USDA-ARS. If APS were able to offer any support towards the remaining costs, I would be happy to refer you to Mary Schweitzer and Abed Gera, the MARD Co-coordinators for the meeting for additional details, who are copied with this message.

Sincerely,

John

John Hammond

Research Leader, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit  
USDA-ARS, U.S. National Arboretum/B-010A, 10300 Baltimore Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Tel.: 301-504-5313; Fax: 301-504-5096  
John.Hammond@ars.usda.gov

#18 Dear Karl:

Thank you for the update on 'Planting Science'. This sounds like a very exciting project and, as I stated earlier this week, I am excited to have APS be involved. I will bring this up at our executive committee conference call next week. I'll be back in touch with you then. Thanks again for suggesting APS be part of this important initiative. Best wishes, Ray

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Ray D. Martyn, Professor  
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From: "Karl J. Niklas" <kjn2@cornell.edu>  
Date: Mon, 3 Dec 2007 10:22:38 -0500  
To: <rmartyn@purdue.edu>  
Subject: "Planting Science" Project

Dear Ray:

It was a great pleasure to speak with you during the CSSP meeting in Washington D. C.

If you recall, I mentioned briefly that my society (the Botanical Society of America) would like very much to involve your society in an NSF funded project called "Planting Science". The basic idea behind the project is that scientific societies like yours and mine will construct instructional modules for grade and junior students that will involve and inform them about our respective areas of research.

We would like to cover as many plant science related topics as possible, and phytopathology is a logical (and important) component of "Planting Science".

I hope your society will work with us on developing phytopathological related projects that students can perform in schools across the country. As I mentioned, this would come at no cost to your society and it would provide "free advertisement" of your society's activities and mission.

Our Executive Director is Bill Dahl (wdahl@botany.org). I will ask Bill to contact you directly about your involvement in this project, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity of speaking with you directly and to resume our friendship.

I hope we can find other ways in which our two societies can interact for our mutual benefit, just as I hope we can continue to speak to one another via emails as well as during future CSSP meetings.

Wishing you all the very best,

Karl

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Karl J. Niklas  
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Cornell University  
Ithaca NY 14853 (USA)  
Phone: 607 - 255 - 8727

Fax: 607 - 255 - 5407

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#13

December 4, 2007

Chairman, Appropriations Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM), thank you for recommending \$244 million for the National Research Initiative (NRI) Competitive Grants Program in the FY 2008 Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. As you work to complete the FY 2008 Department of Agriculture appropriations bill, we urge you and the Committee to continue to support your recommendation of \$244 million for the NRI in FY 2008.

The NRI funds the most cutting-edge agricultural research within the United States. In the September 2007 report, "Economic Returns to Public Agriculture Research," The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) reviewed over 35 economic studies of the social rate of return to investments in agriculture. The report shows the average rate of return on public investment in agriculture research is 45 percent or for every dollar spent on agricultural research, the return is approximately \$10. These returns are shared by all levels of the industry, from producers to consumers.

However, if America is to maintain the most abundant, most affordable, and safest food supply in the world, funding levels need to be increased towards the NRI's authorized amount of \$500 million. The NRI supports research on key issues of timely importance relevant to agriculture, economics, energy, the environment, food, and nutrition on a competitive, peer-reviewed basis. CoFARM encourages you to help move American agricultural research forward through your strong fiscal support of the USDA NRI program.

Thank you for your support of the NRI. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Whitney Tull  
Chair, CoFARM

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