

APS Exec/FAC Notes  
Conference Call  
April 21, 2004, 9:00 AM

Present: Jim M., Richard, B., Ray M., John A., Carol I., Gary B., Jacque F., Steve and Marci

Absent: Rose and Erik

## Agenda

### I. Very brief updates

A. Biosecurity Center Proposal process and schedule: Met in Washington with two reps from each USDA agencies, APHIS, CSREES and ARS. New component: presidential directive- series of directions on biosecurity including items relevant to plant pathogens. Includes a national plant recovery program. A revision of the BC proposal is in the works that will parallel the presidential directives. The meeting in Washington was viewed as a significant step forward by some; however, Some negative response was voiced after meeting in NC with some CFAST representatives. CFAST is new program within APHIS and appears to be developing a new, expanded mission covering diagnosis, research, and regulatory components. Concern was raised that the comments on the BC draft has not been widely circulated and that the proposal doesn't represent the other agencies and programs already in place (lack of transparency- not reporting the other programs). A summary of these other activities from someone within CFAST had been requested, but not received. Others at the meeting in Washington have given positive feedback to APS, but there are clearly mixed messages/responses to the APS proposal. There is also a clear indication that there will be no support for a "brick and mortar" objective in the proposal. Discussion focused on the mechanism for feedback for the next version of the proposal and what comments should be circulated and to whom.

B. Ad hoc Plant Path Priorities Committee and CSREES priorities activity:- No discussion.

C. Anaheim program plans including Leadership Forum: Have about 40 people on the list now, and want to limit the number of attendees to no more than this. Favor inviting some of the incoming officers and directors. **\*MS will send the invitation within the next few weeks after the final list and invite are approved**

Topics for the Leadership Forum:

1. International roles (Abawi and Ploetz will organize) Gareth Hughes will be invited.
- 2 Society communications- **need a title for this for next call**
3. Plant pathology priorities (J. Loper is invited). Ann Lichens-Park will also be invited for this topic.

D. APHIS permitting issue activities and Session at Anaheim: Recap of PPB meeting in Washington with Joe Jen. Discussed the frustration by some APS members with the process and success of obtaining permits for restricted agents, diagnostic laboratory samples, and endemic permits. R. Dunkle is preparing an info piece as is ARS.

Re: Endemic pathogen permits: Propose a session in Anaheim on Wednesday afternoon with Rick Bennet and others to present current status. Need someone to champion the session. Doug Maxwell named as possible organizer. Envision presentations from APHIS and ARS followed by an open discussion. Jim MacDondald will be involved. *Note: The*

*council orientation and pacific division business meeting are currently scheduled between 1-3 pm.* We are still developing a task force on this issue. Sue Tolin has agreed to lead this charge but is not available for the session on Wed. in Anaheim. **Marci or Michelle will set up a conference call with Gary and others to develop a plan for the session in Anaheim.**

E. HOC meeting: S. Nelson reported on the recent HOC meeting held last week at Headquarters. Reviewed a letter from MBAA which included very positive comments regarding their new partnership with Scientific Societies.

Other items discussed at HOC:

- Staff training and development. A recent staff survey identified noticed two areas for improvement , one being communication.
- HOC approved capital expenditures for software and computer updates and minor building improvements
- Formed a committee to study future expectations of HQ including staff structure
- Recommended not taking on any more societies this coming year
- Pension committee has expanded its charge and will make recommendation on foundation reserves.
- Salary equity was reviewed by an outside agency, which made comparison to other nonprofits, universities and local agencies and industries. From this, HOC made recommendations that would be implemented by July 1 2004.
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F. others

Anaheim: Special sessions: some are getting very long (over five hours!): may need to put time restrictions on sessions.

II. FAC agenda items

III. other items?

Re: Department Heads Breakfast. Suggestion to have one of the department heads stand near the entrance and collect tickets. RM will send an email to Mike Stanghellini requesting the DHs be notified that the breakfast is a ticketed event. Staff can run list of those preregistered for this even. Marci will also send a notice to the heads prior to the meeting.

IV. Tentative future Exec/Fac conference calls:

Suggest change to May 19, 2004 (10 AM Eastern) focus will be the leadership forum and council.