

DRAFT
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics
Advisory Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Friday, August 30, 2013
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., EDT

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Milo Shult (Co-Chair), Dr. Charles Boyer, Professor Agnes Mojica, Dr. Steve Daley-Laursen, Dr. Carrie Castille, Mr. Leo Holt, and Dr. Robert Taylor

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dr. Steve Hamburg, Dr. Mark McClellan

Others Present: Caren Wilcox (Special Assistant to the Under Secretary, REE, USDA), David Kelly (Acting Executive Director), Shirley Morgan (Program Support Coordinator)

- 1. Roll Call of the Executive Committee Members and Meeting Attendees (2mins)**
 - David Kelly conducted a roll call of the Executive Committee once members signed on to the conference call.
- 2. Welcome from the Co-Chair (3mins)**
 - Dr. Milo Shult welcomed the committee. The minutes from the previous meeting had not yet been distributed for review and will be approved at a subsequent meeting.
- 3. Comments from the Undersecretary (10mins)**
 - Dr. Woteki was not able to join the call due to travel. Caren Wilcox made comments on the Under Secretary's behalf. They have reviewed the draft of the Science Advisory Committee recommendations. The Mission Area is looking forward to the September meeting and believes it will be a productive one.
- 4. Update From Innovation Institute Working Group (10mins)**
 - Dr. Shult introduced Dr. Castille as the chair of the working group and turned the discussion over to her for an update. Dr. Castille informed the Committee on the working group's activities. As requested by the Under Secretary, the working group has been determining recommendations for how to set up a process for defining the innovation institutes. They are working to identify the appropriate groups that should be involved in the process and how best to ensure that they are all included and a wide variety of voices are heard during the input process.
 - The team has met and is working on a draft plan for review. Specific recommendations will be ready for the full Board to review at the September meeting.
 - Dr. Shult reminded the group that recommendations to the Under Secretary must be finalized during the September meeting. Dr. Castille and the working group agreed that

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they were on pace to make that happen and that their product would be ready for the whole board to consider.

- Caren Wilcox commented regarding the Innovation Institutes and the Under Secretary's intent to include funding for these institutes in the President's FY 2015 budget proposal.

5. **Update from PCAST Science Advisory Committee Working Group (10mins)**

- Caren Wilcox provided comments from the Under Secretary regarding the latest draft of recommendations from the working group. They have reviewed the draft and have made comments on it. The Under Secretary's comments will be distributed to the executive committee. Generally, they feel that the recommendations are very good and require very little change. There is some question regarding Federal scientists serving on the committee and whether that is legal. The Office of General Counsel will have to be consulted to determine whether they will have to serve as ex-officio members or not. Charles Boyer, chair of the working group, thanked Caren for the comments and agreed with her points. Changes will be made to the draft based on the Under Secretary's comments.

6. **September 2013 Meeting Agenda (20mins)**

- David Kelly, Acting Executive Director, walked the Executive Committee through the proposed agenda for the September Meeting.
- The morning of the first day will be spent on ongoing topics within the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area. There will be an opening presentation from the Under Secretary followed by a discussion regarding the REE Action Plan and the Action Plan Report. This presentation will be made by Dr. Charles Onwulata and Dr. Woteki. The final hour of the morning will be spent with the Administrators of the REE Agencies; the discussion will focus on the crop research balance question as raised by the PCAST report.
- The afternoon of the first day will be spent on the PCAST report and its recommendations. There will be presentations from Drs. Dan Schrag and Barbara Schaal, the co-chairs of the PCAST report. This discussion will be followed by reports from the two working groups formed to respond to Dr. Woteki's request for input on how to respond to the PCAST recommendations. The board will discuss these reports and make final recommendations.
- The second day will begin with a discussion on USDA's preparation to respond to the open access to research and research data mandate as laid out by the President and OMB. The second half of the morning will be spent on Board business.
- Agnes Mojica asked a question regarding the current status of the subcommittees and the membership of those committees. David Kelly responded by giving an update on the current status of the subcommittees.
- No comments from committee members were raised on the draft agenda that had been

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provided to the group.

7. Other business

- No other business was raised.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Executive Committee Conference Calls –
First Friday of Every Month
11 a.m. Eastern Time Zone

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Milo Shult
Co-Chair

Dr. Milo Shult
Co-Chair

David Kelly
Acting Executive Director

APPROVAL BY ADVISORY BOARD:

Date

Initials
Chair

Initials
Executive Director