



Research, Education, and Economics (REE)
National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board

Executive Committee Conference Call – November 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Vice Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Ms. Liz Hobart, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky and Ms. Tambra Stevenson—(6)

Members Absent: Dr. Edmund Buckner (Chair) and Mr. Richard De Los Santos, and Ms. Donnell Brown – (3)

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Danielle Farley, Program Analyst

Guests: Dr. Jim McFerson, National Genetics Research Advisory Chair and Dr. Annette Levi

I. Welcome, Roll Call, Quorum Check and Approval of Oct 2022 meeting minutes and Announcements

Roll Call of members and other attendees and a quorum was established amongst the EXECOM members. The October 2022 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

DFO Kate Lewis welcomed the members on the call. She went on to introduce the new NAREEE Board staff member Ms. Danielle Farley as well as Dr. Jim McFerson and Dr. Annette Levi.

II. Board Approval of the Citrus Disease Subcommittee’s (CDS) Fiscal Year 2023 Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) Program Research Priorities

DFO Lewis thanked the members of the Committee that have approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 CDS Research Recommendations for NIFA’s HLB Mitigation for the ECDRE Program. A majority of the EXECOM members approved the recommendations via logging into Teams.

DFO Lewis made opened a motion to the rest of the Board members on the call to approve the FY 23 recommendations. The motion was moved, seconded and the motion carried.



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III. Remarks from the Board Vice Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the members on the call and voiced her excitement on hearing from Dr. Annette Levi.

IV. Overview of Three Awards Provided to California State University Fresno as a Part of the USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

Dr. Levi provided a summary on the background of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) and California State University at Fresno. Dr. Levi summarized the recent HSI awards received by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). In fiscal year 2022 NIFA invested \$14 million in HSIs with a total of thirty awards to twenty-two institutions. Fresno State received three awards for the following:

1. Fresno State HSI (FRESH) program in Applications of Metabolomics in Agricultural Biotechnology
2. Image processing and pattern recognition courses for agricultural technology
3. Utilization focused evaluation conference for Pacific Coast (CA, OR, and WA) HSIs – Maximizing tools, talent and technology. Fresno State is the lead institution.

Questions and Answers:

Dr. Mario Ferruzzi asked a question on the processing industry, how are you taking advantage and leveraging this project beyond what normal stakeholder engagement looks like with student involvement? Dr. Levi answered that ten years ago, Fresno State's Department of Agriculture required each area of study to build an advisory board of stakeholders from banking to livestock, irrigation, and a variety of other stakeholders to help identify problems. Dr. Levi emphasized that alumni being a part of the advisory board helps with fundraising efforts significantly.

DFO Lewis asked "what is a bonded winery?" Dr. Levi answered that Fresno State can produce then wine and commercially sell it.

V. Continued discussion on 2020 Ag Climate Adaptation Report

DFO Lewis stated that a summary was compiled of the USDA's work in the climate space was created in order to help the committee form recommendations to present current policy and



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programs. Ms. Farley asked the Board when would they like an updated summary of USDA's efforts in the climate space and what the scope should be.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore said that ideally ready at the next Advisory Board meeting. DFO Lewis stated that it could work, and her main goal would have the summary ready for review by Thanksgiving.

It was decided that the summary needs to focus on the scope of REE and not the Forest Service.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore asked that DFO Lewis reach out to the entire Board and see if anyone wants to serve on the ad-hoc committee (5 members total) to help with the summary review. Dr. Ferruzzi and Dr. Ariel Ortiz are interested members. Dr. V.M. "Bala" Balasubramaniam volunteered to serve as well.

Next Steps:

DFO Lewis is trying to see if the EXECOM members can come out and join the Ag Outlook Forum in-person in Washington, DC this coming February. DFO Lewis will send out a doodle poll to see if interest is high and she will go from there.

DFO Lewis will post all the approved minutes and agendas for the Boards on the NAREEE Board website site.

VI. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Dr. McFerson thanked the Board for letting him sit in and he also expressed he and the other members want to learn more about the NAREEE Board and sitting in meetings is the best way to do that.

Ms. Farley offered her help to anyone on the committee that needs some assistance on navigating Microsoft Teams to contact her and she is more than willing to help.

Agenda will be sent out a week before the next meeting. The next meeting will be **December 6, 2022, from 12 noon - 1 pm ET**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.