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

**Executive Committee (EXECOM) Conference Call – July 9, 2024, Minutes**

**NAREEE Committee Members Present:** Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, and Ms. Tambra Stevenson - 4

**Members Absent:** – Ms. Donnell Brown, Mr. Richard De Los Santos, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, - 3

**NAREEE Board Staff Present:** Ms. Kate Lewis, NAREEE Board Executive Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Ms. Michele Simmons, Program Specialist

**I. Welcome from Kate Lewis, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met.**

DFO Lewis welcomed the group, took roll call, and noted that the quorum was met. Ms. Simmons updated the Board on the status of the minutes for the June in-person meeting that was held in Kannapolis, NC from June 3-4, 2024. She informed them that Kaylon Allen, Science Writer, for the meeting sent the 1<sup>st</sup> draft. DFO Lewis and Ms. Simmons had edits and comments that were sent to Kaylon to incorporate. She will provide the final draft for the Board’s review once the minutes are available.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the May minutes. There were no comments or revisions. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor. Ms. Simmons will have the web team post the May minutes and agenda on the NAREEE website.

**II. Report/Remarks from the Chair Dr. Jefferson-Moore, Chair**

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the group. She talked about the June NAREEE Board in-person meeting and asked for feedback. Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that Kannapolis, NC was a great location and the meeting was very productive. The Board was able to focus on key topics like the Nutrition Relevancy and Adequacy Report (R&A), hear about the National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) NextGen Program and projects in 1862 land grant universities. She thanked DFO Lewis and Ms. Simmons for organizing the meeting.



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- Letter to REE leadership team

Dr. Jefferson-Moore discussed the letter to the REE Leadership regarding the new topic for the next R&A report that the Board will work on. She stated the topic is pending discussion and approval from the entire Board before they can move forward.

DFO Lewis shared her screen to show the possible topics for FY24-FY25 R&A assessment that was discussed at the in-person Board meeting in June. The topics are:

- Climate Justice
- Data Science
- Extension
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for science
  - Metrics for assessing science/research progress at USDA
- Organic Production Mechanisms
- Precision Agriculture
- Water

Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that even though the Board can only pick one subject for the R&A report, they can still review some of the other topics as possible work products.

There was further discussion on the topics in the Old Business section.

**III. Old Business**

The Board participants discussed the following 7 topics in more detail.

- Climate Justice
- Data Science
- Extension
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for science
  - Metrics for assessing science/research progress at USDA
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It was decided to discuss the 7 topics with the entire Board so they could vote on one for their R&A work product.

DFO Lewis stated it would be good to have a couple of bullets beside each topic that provides supporting reasons for the choosing the subject and include the name(s) of the person(s) that suggested the topic. Ms. Simmons will send a follow-up email to the entire Board with the topics and bullets for each subject. She also will request that all Board Members attend the next meeting scheduled for August 6, 2024, to discuss choosing the top 3 R&A assessments topic. If some of the Members would like to vote anonymously, a voting tool will be provided shortly after the August Board meeting.

Ms. Stevenson asked if there's a deadline to select the R&A work product.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that the R&A work product should be selected by October 1, 2024.

DFO Lewis stated it would be good if Dr. Jefferson-Moore can provide more details on the REE Leadership R&A letter to the full Board at the August meeting and maybe select an Ad Hoc Committee to draft the letter.

**Precision Nutrition FY23/24 R&A Report**

DFO Lewis stated that Dr. Ferruzzi should have an updated final draft of the Precision Nutrition report with hopes to have a vote for approval at the Board meeting in August.

**NGRAC Crop Vulnerability Report**

Dr. Jim McFerson will present the final draft of the approved report on Crop Vulnerability at the next EXECOM meeting in August. He will discuss the edits and comments that addressed the Board's comments from the meeting in Kannapolis, NC.



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**EXECOM Membership and Path Forward**

Dr. Jefferson-Moore talked about the proposal that was discussed at the Board meeting in June. The Board Members decided to keep the Board roster as is until the end of September 2025. It was discussed at the June meeting that Dr. Ferruzzi would step into the Chair position October 1, 2025, and a Vice-chair will be elected mid-year 2025. Dr. Balasubramaniam confirmed that he will continue on the Board until September 2025. Ms. Stevenson will step down from being a Member on the Board at the end of FY 2024. DFO Lewis discussed a table titled “Timeline and Path Forward for Adjusting the NAREEE Advisory Board’s Executive Committee” from July 2024-October 2027. This document will help to keep track, manage the process, and the transition of the Board’s terms and vacancies. DFO will go over the table for further discussion at the meeting in August when most of the Board Members will be present.

**IV. Wrap-Up/Adjourn**

Approved meeting minutes may be found [here](#)  
Recurring EXECOM meetings will take place the 1st Tuesday of each month  
Next meeting: Tues 8/6/24, 12–1 pm ET  
The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. ET.