



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

Executive Committee (EXECOM) Conference Call – September 10, 2024, Minutes

NAREEE Committee Members Present: Dr. Kenrett Jefferson-Moore (Chair), Dr. V.M. “Bala” Balasubramaniam, Ms. Donnell Brown, Ms. Vanessa Garcia-Polanco, Dr. Ellen Harris, Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, Dr. Jane Kolodinsky, and Ms. Tambra Stevenson
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Members Absent: Mr. Richard De Los Santos - 1

NAREEE Board Staff Present: Ms. Michele Simmons, NAREEE Board Executive Acting Director/Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Guest: Dr. Deirdra Chester, Director, Office of the Chief Scientist

I. Welcome from Ms. Simmons, Roll Call, and Quorum Check. Quorum was met.

Ms. Simmons welcomed the group, took roll call, and noted that the quorum was met.

Dr. Chester also welcomed the group to give a few updates. She mentioned to the Board that we will not be able to have a NAREEE Advisory Board In-person meeting in November, due to the uncertainty of the approval of the FY25 budget and budget constraints. Dr. Chester thanked the Board for them agreeing to have a virtual meeting. She is also looking forward to reviewing the Relevancy and Adequacy (RNA) report on Precision Nutrition. Dr. Chester stated she is excited as well as Under Secretary Jacobs-Young, to see what the Board’s topic this year is for the FY25 RNA report. She thanked the Board members for their time and service on the Board.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore thanked Dr. Chester for acknowledging the Board.

Dr. Chester asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any revisions to the August minutes. There were no comments or revisions. She asked for a motion and a second motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor and none opposed. Ms. Simmons will have the web team post the August minutes and agenda on the NAREEE website.



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

Dr. Jefferson-Moore welcomed the group. She mentioned that we (the Board) are finalizing our fiscal year and there have been a few changes. Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that DFO Lewis is on a 90-day detail and there's quite a few changes that are happening. Ms. Tandra Stevenson will be ending her service to the Board at the end of FY24. She has received a new position as an ORISE Fellow with the Agricultural Research Service. This will cause a conflict of interest if she stays on with the NAREEE Advisory Board. Ms. Stevenson will be working at the Human Nutrition Research Centers at USDA. Dr. Jefferson-Moore thanked Ms. Stevenson for her contributions to the mission of the NAREEE Advisory Board and her insightful comments. She asked if Ms. Stevenson wanted to make a few comments.

Ms. Stevenson stated she is looking forward to maintaining relationships with Members on the Board, and continuing servicing USDA, but in a different capacity. She thanked everyone and mentioned it was a pleasure being on the Board.

Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated she appreciates Ms. Stevenson's service to the Board.

- Letter to REE leadership team

Dr. Jefferson-Moore discussed the letter that the Board will share with the REE Leadership on the topic for the FY25 RNA report that is currently being voted on. Ms. Simmons stated that Ms. Lewis took a poll to see what the Board voted on and she will check with Ms. Lewis to see what the majority FY25 RNA topic is. Dr. Jefferson-Moore stated that once the topic is decided, she will be asking for assistance to develop the draft letter to submit to REE Leadership. She asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

III. Current Business

- **Precision Nutrition FY23/24 R&A Report**
- Ms. Simmons gave an update on the Precision Nutrition FY23/24 R&A Report. She informed the Board that Dr. Ferruzzi sent the final report for the EXECOM to vote on. The majority of the EXECOM approved the report to move it forward for the full NAREEE Advisory Board to vote on. They have



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until September 11th to vote. If approved, Ms. Simmons will package the report along with other needed documents for the Office of the Chief Scientist to review. If approved, the package will route to the REE front office for review/approval, and then to the Secretary’s office for their review and acknowledgement.

- **National Genetics Resources Advisory Committee (NGRAC) Crop Vulnerability Report**

Ms. Simmons mentioned that the Board approved the NGRAC Crop Vulnerability report in August 2024. DFO Lewis was working on finding a template with graphics to enhance the report. Since DFO Lewis is on her 90-day detail, Ms. Simmons will work on completing the package for routing to the Office of the Chief Scientist for review. If approved, the package will route to the REE front office for review/approval, and then to the Secretary’s office for their review and acknowledgement.

- **Diversity & Inclusivity (D&I) recommendations**

Ms. Simmons stated that the Board members were sent an acknowledgment letter from the USDA Secretary on August 15th via email noting that he received their D&I recommendations. She will reach out to Dr. Chester to see who in REE can address the Board’s recommendations and what the next steps are. Ms. Simmons asked if there were any questions or comments on the 3 work products. There were none.

IV. New Business

- Discussion about next Board meeting tentatively scheduled for Nov 6-7, 2024

Ms. Simmons sent out a “Save the Date” calendar invite for a virtual meeting for the Fall NAREEE Advisory Board meeting to take place from November 6-7, 2024. This meeting will take place based on whether the FY25 budget is approved by Congress and what the current status is of the Farm bill. Ms. Simmons mentioned that she will check with the Federal Advisory Committee office to see if the NAREEE Advisory Board, their Committees and Subcommittees can continue working if there isn’t a new FB in place or if the



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FY25 budget isn't passed by Congress by October 1, 2024.

Ms. Simmons asked if there were any question or comments. There were none.

V. Wrap-Up/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. ET.

Reminders:

Approved meeting minutes may be found [here](#)

Recurring EXECOM meetings will take place the 1st Tuesday of each month

Next meeting: Tues 10/1/24, 12–1 pm ET