

Item XXX

NASULGC-DOE Collaboration

Presenter: H. M. Harrington

For information only, no action requested

Background

Jim Fischer assumed a position on DOE's EERE Board of Directors last summer with a charge of enhancing partnerships with Universities. Jim Fischer, Stan Johnson, Dan Bartel and Jim Zuiches developed a draft plan of activities that has been shared with both the SAES and CES. This proposal was covered in a January agreement between NASULGC and DOE-EERE that was signed by Under Secretary Garman. Peter McGrath charged the BAA-Policy Board of Directors with implementing the agreement. It should be stressed that DOE is interested in more than just the LGU and the colleges of agriculture as the overall objective of these efforts is to increase university participation in DOE programs.

The Executive Directors have agreed to provide administrative leadership in implementing the agreement's five sub-projects. These five projects are structured and timed to permit a reporting at the NASULGC Annual meetings in November of 2004. Subsequent to these meetings and the report, the BAA Committee and Jim Fischer and appropriate staff will propose a cooperative program for 2005, which builds on the successes and ideas for collaboration that have surfaced as a result of the experience in 2004.

The AES and CES regional EDs, as well as the NASULGC EDs met in Washington DC with Jill Long Thompson (National Center for Food and Agriculture Policy, NCFAP), Jim Fischer (DOE), Mike Mills (DOE), Rick Brenner (USDA ARS) and Stan Johnson (ISU) in January to initiate the various projects. The NCFAP will serve as a point of contact and coordinating entity for the overall project.

Specific Projects:

I. Expanding the Opportunities for Cooperation and Communication between NASULGC institutions and DOE (Lund and O'Conner)

The Purpose of this project is to: 1) Identify opportunities within DOE/EERE for faculty and staff to participate in programs, Boards and review teams. 2) Develop a process to identify specific faculty and staff at NASULGC member institutions eligible to serve on DOE/EERE programs, Boards and review teams. 3) Provide DOE/EERE with a database of names and credentials of faculty and staff with interests aligned with specific DOE/EERE needs. 4) Develop a process to improve information concerning professional opportunities available in EERE for graduates of NASULGC institutions. In addition, provide EERE with information about graduates and their areas of interest.

II. Use of Extension and Outreach Systems for the Dissemination and Delivery of DOE/EERE Products and Services (Wootton and Brown)

The purpose of this project will be to link the Extension and Outreach Services with the products and services that are produced by the EERE research and development programs. The objective is to expand the use of the DOE/EERE products and services, reaching all areas of the nation. The result will be increased use of these products and services and improved conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy--addressing the mission of EERE and enabling the Extension Service to better serve its clients.

III. Youth Education in Science and Technology (Maw and Benning)

The objectives of the project will be to attract youth to science and technology careers, educate youth about conservation, energy efficiency and renewables, and to leverage the applications of the DOE/EERE materials for in-school and out-of-school educational settings.

IV. Engaging the Research Capacity of NASULGC Institutions (Young and Fretz)

The objective of the two-phase exercise is to determine if the IP regulations are, in fact, a barrier to participation of the NASULGC-affiliated institutions in consortia including private firms that are bidders on DOE/EERE solicitations, and to make changes in these regulations that make NASULGC-affiliated institutions more attractive partners. The actions will involve a survey and follow up negotiations to develop a more general multi-university IP mechanism--if the survey turns up barriers. Of course, the multi-university IP agreement, if developed, would address the issues or specifics of the barriers turned up in the survey.

V. Workshops at the DOE Labs for Scientists from the NASULGC-Affiliated Institutions (Harrington and Donald)

The plan for this project is to organize a series of workshops at the DOE Labs. However, in the first year of this effort will likely be focused on The National Renewable Energy Laboratory as a partner in this project. The purpose of the workshops will be to expand the connections between the scientists at the Labs and the scientists that are with the NASULGC-affiliated institutions. These workshops will be narrowly focused in areas that are aligned with the major areas of focus of NREL namely: wind, solar, biomass, buildings, advanced vehicles and fuels, geothermal, hydrogen and fuel cells and/or areas in which the Lab is developing scientific programs. The objective of the workshops will be to acquaint the scientists that are participants and to expand the possibilities for collaboration on current and future projects. A special focus will be on the younger scientists and underrepresented minorities at the NASULGC-affiliated institutions, and the opportunity to complement the teaching responsibilities of the participating scientists.