

MINUTES
March 9, 2021
Business Meeting

Present:

Mark Cathcart, Carol Suzanne Hamilton, Jennifer Mountford, Ben Boyles, Matthew Fischer, David Dewitt, Heather Coleman Benjamin, Anna Rebecca Baxley, Faith C Isreal, Janet Watt Steele, Jaime Pohlman, Christopher S Burt, Lindsey Denise Craig, Gary Jermont Coleman, Weatherly Thomas, Jamelia Graham, Karen E Jackson, Haley Marie Parent, Jason Donald Gore, Gayle Williford, Charlotte Hinton Maxwell, Travis W Mitchell, Lauren Hood, Abigail T. Phillips, Callen Bethea Outen, Faith Lawrimore Truesdale, Chase McIntosh Baillie, Julia Miller Cox, Dawn Baggett Stuckey, Kerrie Ruth Margaret Roach, Mallory K Dailey, Neil Jordan Franklin, Benjamin Powell, Brian Bolt, Adam J. Kantrovich, Daniel J Anco, Richard Willey, N. Jordan Franklin

Welcome

President – Mark Cathcart

Administrative Update

Dr. Tom Dobbins

- Extension senate has been a good voice for Extension with President Clements.
- Extension Senate continues to be a positive leadership influence.
- As we come out of COVID-19 operating guidelines the leadership team is looking into:
 - How extension operations looks going forward with programming (virtual, in-person, hybrid) and a hybrid in office – work from home schedule.
 - State budget is in really good shape.
 - We do have some stimulus money coming in, which is good, but we may be tight for federal funding down the road, unsure at this point.
 - No cuts in funding so far for this year.
 - Furlough dollars are being returned to PSA to fund certain aspects of extensions.
 - Garrison center is being upgraded and will be a great profit center for us in the future.
 - When we have a clearer picture, we will relay to the senate.
- Question (Kerrie Roach): Has there been any discussion on the university providing assistance with employees getting vaccinated?
- Answer (Dobbins): The university is not a distributor, but you are encouraged to get the vaccine from wherever you can, and whichever (Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, or Moderna) one you can, since extension agents are classified as agricultural employees (1B) of the vaccine distribution plan.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- Drew Jeffers distributed the minutes via email, and asked if there were any changes to be made.
- Adam Kantrovich moved to accept the minutes
- Carol Hamilton seconded
- Vote passed to accept the minutes.

Association Reports

- SCACAA Zack Snipes Pres.
 - Zack was unable to make it, so Mark Cathcart gave the report.
 - The SCACAA is looking to have a meeting sometime in April or May. The meeting may be virtual or in person, it has not been fully determined.

- SCAE4-HA Lauren Hood, Pres.

Extension Senate represents the faculty of Cooperative Extension Service in its relationship with the University and Extension administration, recommending the establishment of new policies or changes in existing policies which affect Cooperative Extension employees, their welfare, and such other matters as may maintain and promote the best interest of the University.

- Working on in-person meeting this year
- Last year's meeting was virtual
- Had an attendance drive, and 100% of 4-H agents are now members.
- SC-ANREP Kim Morganello, Pres.
 - In March we will have a call for nominations for board positions.
 - The call will go out to the SC-ANREP listserv and likely the Extension listserv also in case anyone missed the first email for interested members in 2020. Thus far the listserv is comprised of Extension Agents, Associates and Specialists from Forestry and Wildlife, Water and 4-H program teams, as well as SC SeaGrant staff.
 - Plan to host elections in April and have our first board in place by May. The board positions will include the typical board positions of president, president elect, secretary, treasurer, etc as well as a representative for each of the Extension Districts. In addition, one of the objectives of SCANREP is to increase communication and raise awareness of Extension work in our sister agencies of SC SeaGrant Extension and SC State University.
 - We will have a board position dedicated to SC State and to SC SeaGrant. Amy and I met with SC State last week and are excited to welcome Dr. Josh Idassi as a collaborator. Dr. Idassi has indicated he has Extension Agents that will be interested in becoming members.

Committee Reports

- Org. & Policy Mallory Dailey
 - No report
- Recognition Faith Isreal
 - We have some good extension awards this year. Those awards were sent to the head extension office.
 - Announcements of awards are to follow.
 - It was good to see all the collaboration this past year between agents.
- Welfare Adam Kantrovich
 - Nothing to report except that the committee needs to meet to appoint a chair.
- **New Business**
 - Committees
 - No new committee business
 - Membership – Certificates
 - Certificates are better given out during inperson meetings.
 - More on these to follow in coming meetings
 - Salary Discrepancies
 - This is a critical issue, in that new hires are being paid the same as experienced agents.
 - However, we need to focus on getting back to normal operations and serving the public due to the current situation with the pandemic.
 - We will take this up at a later meeting.
 - Letter to Administration

- Thank you letters are being drafted by the executive committee to be sent out President Clements, Dean Belli, and Dr. Dobbins.
- Schedule Future Meetings
 - We will send out a doodle poll to schedule future meetings.
 - After the poll we will set our meeting schedule for the rest of the year.
- **Open for Discussion**
 - Increasing Extension's Presence on Campus and With Students
 - Mallory – we need to pursue efforts to increase Extension's presence on campus and with students.
 - Ag Day (Sept 11, 2021) is now called Landgrant Mission Awareness – we need to make sure we support that event.
 - Executive committee will reach out to leadership on campus
 - Kerrie Roach moved that Mallory head up this effort. Seconded by Callen Outen.
 - PSA Conference
 - Ben Powell brought up the need for the PSA Conference to occur since it was canceled due to COVID-19.
 - We will revisit with Dr. Dobbins
- **Meeting Adjourned**