

From the desk of the Executive Director

Dear Colleagues,

In Washington today, it feels more like spring than winter, but that will change, I am sure, before the weekend is out.

In this town, there is one given constant: **change**. And in keeping with that, I start this communication to bring you up-to-date with changes that have occurred over the past five weeks or so at NASULGC. As you know, C. Peter Magrath left this association after 13 years of tenure as president to join the College Board as a senior advisor and M. Peter McPherson took the helm on January 1. As Peter (new) came on board he has made some significant changes.

First, we have gone through a downsizing of administrative support staff. Three such positions have been eliminated and others combined to streamline the operations and support. Unfortunately for me and APS, one of those folks released in this process was Angela Gray who has served us so well for the time that she was here. Replacing her in that role will be Suzette Robinson, who – for those of us that have been around for awhile – is no stranger to APS as she worked for both Joe and AL until Mort Neufville decided that her talents would be best utilized working directly with him. I am very pleased that Suzette will be back with us. Regretfully, she has been out of the office on medical leave for the past three weeks, but hopes to return in another three.

Secondly, three directors of the organization have been released and new personnel in the areas of government affairs, public affairs, and academic affairs are being identified. Howard Gobstein has joined the staff as Vice President for Research and Science Policy, David Shulenburg, currently executive vice president and provost at the University of Kansas, has been appointed as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Mort Neufville, Executive Vice-President and the “leader of aggie land” has been moved into the Office of the President and will spend the majority of his time working with the commissions and councils of the organization. And as you may have seen earlier today, I have been named as Vice President for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources assuming those responsibilities that Mort had for the Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources (CFERR). These include the Board on Human Sciences, the Board on Vet. Medicine, Board on Natural Resources, Board on Oceans and Atmospheres, and the Board on Agriculture Assembly. Yes, suddenly the plate of work and responsibility has become a fairly large platter. With these new assignments I am retaining my roles with ACOP and APS, but with additional help as will be noted below.

As these changes, particularly those that would affect APS, were being discussed I have been in close consultation with our Executive Committee of APS and have benefited by their wise counsel and last week I had the opportunity to fully brief ACOP as to the impending changes. Of concern to all of us has been that there be no loss of effort or leadership to APS and with additional support there should be none. To that end, Amanda Murphy, a vibrant energetic young professional who joined our staff last fall to work with several of the boards, will back me up on APS matters and as time and interest permits play a significant role in a number of our forward looking efforts. In the short term, balancing all of my new activities with those that are on-going will be an interesting challenge and as I need to come to know and be known to other groups occasional time conflicts are likely to arise. But I pledge to do my best to meet all expectations. One thing is certain, there is an expectation that the leadership of APS, that is, ACOP membership, will play an increasingly important role in leadership of their respective regions.

On to other matters.

Winter Meeting.

Some of you have yet to complete your Winter Meeting Registration and hotel reservations and must do so immediately! The hotel has extended its cut off date to Monday, February 6!! So register immediately.

As some of you have asked, below is the broad schedule for our meeting; -- you may have misplaced this earlier communication -- a detailed agenda will precede the actual event by about a week.

Tentative Agenda:

Sunday, February 26, 2006

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. ACOP Meeting (this meeting is for ACOP members, not all of APS)
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. AASCARR Executive Committee Meeting
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Break

Monday, February 27, 2006

7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 10:00 a.m. APS Business Meeting
8:00 - 10:00 a.m. AASCARR Business Meeting
10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break
10:15 - 11:45 a.m. APS Business Meeting
10:15 - 11:45 a.m. AASCARR Business Meeting
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Joint APS/AASCARR Lunch
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Joint Workshop
3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Break
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Joint Workshop (cont.)
6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Joint APS/AASCARR Dinner

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

8:00 - 1:00 p.m. Workshop continuation
10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Break
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Eighth Annual Food and Agricultural Science and Education Exhibition and Capitol Hill Reception - Rayburn House Office Building Cafeteria

CIP Survey.

The response to the survey has been strong so far, but there are yet a number of institutions who need to forward their completed forms. Both my office and ACOP regional leadership will be calling those who have not submitted their information in the very near future. As you know, it is critically important that we have information from each and every institution if we are going to be able to effect the changes we all desire with the FAEIS program. Please email these forms to me ASAP.

A Final Thought.

These past few weeks, as you might imagine, have been challenging for your Executive Director as I wrestled with ways to balance the important needs of ACOP/ASP with those of the broader CFERR and NASULGC organizations. Upper most in this process was my unwavering commitment to what I regard as my professional home: Academic Programs. My long tenure with this organization and within that the personal and professional associations I enjoy, represents something I was/am loath to abandon. We have framed a situation, which I believe will work to the benefit of all, but for it to succeed in the manner I believe it should, I will need your continual support, assistance and understanding.

See you in several weeks.