

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Web Source - <http://www.aplu.org/>

(Summarized by Eric Young, Executive Director, Southern AHS, 2023)

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)

1. A higher education association whose membership comprises 212 major U.S. public research universities including all U.S. land-grant institutions.
2. Founded in 1887, APLU is the nation's oldest higher education association.
3. Dedicated to supporting excellence in teaching, research and public service, APLU has been in the forefront of educational leadership nationally for more than a century.
4. Composed of Washington, D.C.- based staff with programs organized around several Councils:
 - a. Council on Academic Affairs
 - b. Council on Business Affairs
 - c. Council of 1890 Colleges and Universities
 - d. Council on Extension, Continuing Education, and Public Service
 - e. Council on Governmental Affairs
 - f. Council of Presidents
 - g. Council of Presidents' and Chancellors' Spouses
 - h. Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education
 - i. Council on Student Affairs
 - j. Council on University Relations and Development
5. and Commissions:
 - a. Commission on Food, Environment, and Renewable Resources (see below)
 - b. Commission on Human Resources and Social Change
 - c. Commission on Information Technologies
 - d. Commission on International Programs
 - e. Commission on Outreach and Technology Transfer
 - f. Commission on the Urban Agenda

Commission on Food, Environment and Renewable Resources (CFERR)

1. Membership comprises all 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges of agriculture plus Texas Tech University, Southern Illinois University, Arizona State University, and California State Universities at Fresno and San Luis Obispo.
2. Focuses on broad crosscutting issues in research, teaching and extension related to agriculture, food, forestry, human sciences, natural resources, oceans and atmosphere, and veterinary medicine.
3. Comprised of five Boards:
 - a. **Board on Agriculture Assembly** - (see below)
 - b. **Board on Human Sciences** - administrators of colleges of human sciences (or home economics, human ecology, and family and consumer sciences) at APLU-member institutions.
 - c. **Board on Natural Resources** - administrators of colleges of forestry and natural resources at APLU-member institutions.
 - d. **Board on Oceans and Atmosphere** - administrators of colleges of environmental sciences at APLU-member institutions.
 - e. **Board on Veterinary Medicine** - administrators of the colleges of veterinary medicine and veterinary science departments at APLU-member institutions.

Board on Agriculture Assembly (BAA)

1. Voting membership consists of a maximum of six representatives from each APLU-member institution. They are the following agricultural program administrators at each institution as designated by the institution's chief executive officer:
 - a. Two Administrative Heads of Agriculture or other appropriate unit
 - b. One director from the Experiment Station or designate
 - c. One director/administrator from Cooperative Extension or designate
 - d. One director from Academic Programs or designate
 - e. One director from International Agriculture Programs or designate
2. **Policy Board of Directors (PBD)** - the representative governing body of the Board on Agriculture Assembly. Voting members are elected by the Sections and include two from the Administrative Heads Section, who serve as Chairperson and Chairperson-Elect, one from each of the other Sections, and one from the Non-Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Universities research and extension, 1994 Institutions, and Insular Institutions. The PBD conducts business through the following three standing committees:
 - a. **Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC)** – responsible for the preparation of an annual budget recommendation for those matters relating to agriculture and related areas that are of special concern to the member institutions and for coordinating the presentation of these recommendations to the PBD in a timely fashion. The BAC also will work with CARET and undertake the necessary and appropriate advocacy activities to effectively implement the budget recommendations adopted by the BAA Policy Board of Directors. The BAC communicates these budget recommendations to the APLU Council on Governmental Affairs, federal agencies (including the USDA and the Office of Management and Budget), U. S. House of Representatives and Senate, and other individuals and groups as deemed appropriate by the BAC.
 - b. **Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP)** - responsible for coordinating all activities of the BAA as it relates to Farm Bill legislation and other legislative and/or regulatory activities of interest to the BAA. This includes developing and implementing strategies in the initial development of the legislation; coordinating a support base for initiatives development by the CLP as the legislation moves through the Congress and/or the Executive Branch; and, monitoring and impacting subsequent implementation of programs and regulations that are authorized in the legislation.
 - c. **Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC)** - in consultation with the BAC, advocacy organization(s), and others, provides guidance in the assessment of impacts resulting from the Land-grant system; develops marketing strategies/initiatives, when appropriate; and leads the BAA's communication and marketing efforts. The CMC oversees and guides a coordinated and targeted educational effort to increase awareness of the Land-grant University agricultural and related programs.
3. The BAA consists of the following Sections and their representative governing body:
 - a. **Administrative Heads Section (AHS)** - members are the chief administrators of the member universities agricultural programs.
 - b. **Academic Programs Section (APS)** - members are the designated administrators of academic programs at the colleges of agriculture of all the member institutions.
 - i. **Academic Programs Committee on Organization and Policy (ACOP)** - the representative governing body of the Academic Programs Section (see below).
 - c. **Cooperative Extension Section (CES)** - members are the designated administrators of the cooperative extension services of all the member institutions.
 - i. **Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)** - the representative governing body of the Cooperative Extension Section (see below).
 - d. **Experiment Station Section (ESS)** - members are the designated administrators of the experiment stations and agricultural research of all the member institutions.
 - i. **Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP)** - the representative governing body of the Experiment Station Section (see below).

- e. **International Agriculture Section (IAS)** - members are the designated administrators of international agriculture programs at the colleges of agriculture of all the member institutions.
 - i. **International Committee on Organization and Policy (ICOP)** - the representative governing body of the International Agriculture Section (see below).
- 4. **Council for Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching (CARET)** - a national grassroots organization of laypersons from the constituencies served by the land-grant colleges of agriculture. Each state and territory may designate up to three CARET members who work closely with their respective agricultural program administrators. They offer guidance and support for programs in agricultural research, extension, and teaching and are primarily affiliated with the Administrative Heads Section and take direction from the BAC.

Academic Programs Committee on Organization and Policy (ACOP)

1. Comprised of the following members:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair (Chair-elect)
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Past Chair
 - e. Regional Chairs and Chairs-elect
 - f. Section representative to the Policy Board of Directors
 - g. Section representative to the Budget and Advocacy Committee
 - h. Section Representative to the Committee on Legislation and Policy
 - i. Chair of the Program Planning Committee
 - j. Section Representative to Lead21
 - k. Representatives from
 - i. 1890 Institutions
 - ii. 1994 Institutions
 - iii. USDA/NIFA/SERD/HEP (Ex-Officio)
 - iv. Non-land-grant Agricultural and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU)
 - v. Board on Human Sciences
 - l. Liaison from CARET
 - m. Liaison to NARRU
 - n. Executive Director of APS/APLU (Ex-Officio)
2. ACOP is a standing committee of the Academic Programs Section and works *to* assure that the development of human capital in agriculture, food, natural resources, life sciences and related areas is a preeminent concern of the Land-Grant System and its federal partners. ACOP acts as a Board of Directors and is the business and policy arm of the Academic Programs Section. It has the authority to act in behalf of the Section and to bring major business and policy items to the full Section as explained in the Rules of Operation. ACOP conducts business through the following committees.
 - a. **Program Planning Committee** – responsible for developing ideas and themes for the professional development activities of the APS and for organizing and implementing the workshop programs associated with those development activities. In addition, the committee is charged with bringing suggestions for future directions to the attention of the section and with identifying new and emerging issues that might be critical to the section.
 - b. **APS Impact Statement Committee** - The APS Impact Statement Committee is responsible for the development and distribution of statements about the results and impact of funded and non-funded academic programs by Academic Programs Section (APS) members. In addition, the Committee is charged with developing processes, procedures and methods for collection and use of such statements. Committee efforts focus upon creating positive opportunities for Higher Education and provide positive support for Higher Education programs carried out by APS member institutions.

Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)

1. Comprised of the following members:
 - a. Chair
 - c. Vice-Chair (Chair-elect)
 - d. Three members from each of the five regional associations (see below)
 - e. Chairs of the BLC and 4H Leadership Committee (see below)
 - f. USDA/NIFA Director (or designee) (ex officio, non-voting)
 - g. ECOP Executive Director Team (ex officio, non-voting)
 - h. CES representative to the PBD, BAC, and CLP (ex officio, non-voting)
 - i. Extension Foundation CEO (or designee) (ex officio, non-voting)
 - j. Extension Foundation Board Chair (ex officio, non-voting)
 - k. Liaisons from:
 - i. ESCOP
 - ii. ACOP
 - iii. ICOP
 - iv. AHS
 - v. CARET
 - vi. 4-H Council
2. ECOP represents the 75 state and territorial cooperative extension systems in policy decisions, and provides nationwide program and organizational leadership. It is an elected committee that functions as a board of directors with the authority to make decisions consistent with a common mission and purpose. The purpose of ECOP is to give guidance to issues of importance to the Cooperative Extension Section. ECOP focuses on four core themes: 1) Build partnerships and acquire resources; 2) Increase strategic marketing and communications; 3) Enhance leadership and professional development, and 4) Strengthen organizational functioning. It conducts business through the following committees:
 - a. **Executive Committee** - Conducts ECOP business requiring immediate attention when ECOP is not in formal session. Reports interim action to ECOP during regularly scheduled meetings. • Identify and set annual goals guided by the ECOP mission, vision, values, and Annual Action Plan. Develop work plans, and track and annually report outcomes and indicators of success. • Develop and approve ECOP meeting agendas, incorporating time for committee and liaison action items. • Appoint, coordinate, monitor and dismiss working groups, for defined purposes and time periods, as needed to conduct the work of the Executive Committee, recommending action to ECOP and other standing committees as appropriate. Regularly report the status of these groups to ECOP.
 - b. **Budget and Legislative Committee** – within the ECOP mission, vision, values, and goals, establishes and implements a Federal legislative, budget, and advocacy agenda for CES and the Extension System; represents CES priorities to the BAC and CLP; and informs CARET and other customer groups so they can effectively advocate on behalf of the Extension System’s priorities.
 - c. **Program Committee** – identify and recommend action on emerging future programs, program related issues, and delivery systems important to the Extension System; recommend, coordinate, monitor, and recommend dismissal of task forces related to national priority program initiatives, currently including the Urban Task Force; and create program communication networks and systems for national sharing and learning.
 - d. **Professional Development Committee** – identify and recommend action on emerging future personnel and organizational issues important to the Extension System; recommend, coordinate, monitor, and recommend dismissal of task forces related to national priority personnel initiatives, currently including the Extension Diversity Task Force; and create personnel communication networks and systems for national sharing and learning.
 - e. **4H Leadership Committee** – engage in regular and substantive discussion about issues of national importance related to the LGU Cooperative Extension System implementation of the 4-H program, including issues of organization and policy; enhance the ability of the 4-H

system to discuss a variety of issues and include a range of ideas before major decisions affecting the national 4-H system are made by the partners; help define a coordinated approach to implementation of the national 4-H vision and mission; and develop and submit recommendations to ECOP for policy and organizational discussion and consideration of next steps and/or implementation.

- f. **Extension Foundation** – part of the Cooperative Extension System as a 501 (c)(3) foundation, it operates under separate rules while maintaining close alignment with ECOP.

Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP)

1. Comprised of the following members:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Chair-elect
 - c. Immediate Past-chair
 - d. Section representative and alternate to the PBD
 - e. Three directors and the Executive Director from each of the five regional associations (see below)
 - f. Chairs of the three Core Committees
 - g. One representative each from the Board on Human Sciences, Board on Veterinary Medicine, and the National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges
 - h. Non-voting ex-officio members and non-voting liaison representatives are:
 - Director, NIFA (ex-officio)
 - Executive Directors (EDs) of the five regions (ex-officio)
 - Vice President of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources for APLU (ex-officio)
 - Academic Programs Committee on Organization and Policy (ACOP)
 - Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET)
 - Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
 - International Committee on Organization and Policy (ICOP)
2. The voting members of ESCOP shall include the ESCOP Chair (who also serves as the Chair of the Section); the Chair-Elect of ESCOP (who also serves as the Chair-Elect of the Section); the Section representative to the BAA PBD; the immediate Past-Chair of ESCOP; three members elected from each of the five regional associations (i.e., 15 representatives), each serving a three-year term on a staggered term basis; and the Chairs of the ESCOP standing committees. In addition, non-voting liaisons (one each) shall come from the APLU BHS, BNR and BVM and one representative shall come from NAUFRP. Each of these latter representatives shall serve at the pleasure of their respective associations.
3. ESCOP is the executive or operating body of the Experiment Station Section, which handles continuing business, organization, and policy issues on behalf of the state agricultural experiment station directors. It conducts business primarily through four Core Committees:
 - a. **Budget and Legislative Committee** - The ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committee (BLC) is charged with developing annual justifications for the federal budget process and legislative priorities, including the Farm Bill, in consultation with other sections of the APLU Board on Agricultural Assembly (BAA) and other stakeholders. The ESCOP BLC is aligned with two standing committees of the BAA Policy Board of Directors: Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) and Committee on Legislation and Policy (CLP).
 - b. **Science and Technology Committee** - The ESCOP Science and Technology Committee (STC) is charged with promoting and enhancing science and technology in the Land-grant university system. The committee assists ESCOP to identify future directions and anticipate and respond to research needs and opportunities for funding. The committee assists in linking science and technology programs to multistate and national research initiatives. The committee recommends how ESCOP will respond to reports, recommendations, and planning documents from the national science community. This committee provides guidance to ESCOP strategic planning and priority setting.
 - c. **Diversity Catalyst Committee** - The Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) champions a long-term diversity and inclusion agenda for ESS with goals, metrics, timelines, implementation activities, and

continuity of practice with a rolling three-year plan. The DCC engages in topics of diversity in research leadership across the Land-grant university system, provides ideas and actions for consideration, and supplements institutional, regional and national diversity and inclusion efforts. The focus is primarily on enhancing the diversity among the Experiment Station Directors, Research Directors, and their associates and assistants.

- d. **Finance Committee.** ESCOP has a direct oversight role regarding decisions that impact ESS funds. ESCOP delegates supervisory responsibility for the management of ESS funds to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall draft and present a budget and budget narrative to the ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee, for review and approval prior to submitting it to ESS for adoption; act in an advisory capacity and give counsel regarding financial matters affecting the organization; coordinate payments/reimbursements from ESS operating funds with appropriate APLU offices and personnel; conduct an orientation for ESCOP on income and expenses; and review the investment plan annually. The specific responsibilities of the Finance Committee and the investment policies of the Experiment Station Section are described in the "Investment Policy of the Experiment Station Section".

4. Additional ESCOP Standing Committees

- a. *Executive Committee.* The ESCOP Executive Committee (EC) is charged with assisting the Chair on actions needed between regular meetings of ESCOP. This includes, but is not limited to, handling the continuing business of ESCOP and ESS/ARD; attending to all organization and policy matters with APLU, agencies of the federal government, farm (commodity and agribusiness) organizations and groups; assessing the goals and purposes of the organization on a continuing basis; recommending changes in the structure and organization of ESCOP to meet changing societal needs and the needs of the Section; assuring that appropriate lines of communication are identified and effectively implemented and maintained; serving as the nominations committee for the ESS/ARD and identifying expertise among stakeholders and within the Section for possible service in various roles (e.g., advisory groups). In the event that the Past-Chair from a region is not available for a vote, then a different ESCOP representative from that region may cast their one vote.
- b. *Chair's Advisory Committee.* The Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC) meets frequently with the ESCOP Chair to offer advice and counsel on current and emerging problems and opportunities. This committee meets at the request of the ESCOP Chair. In addition to the members below, the ESCOP Chair may invite other liaison representatives to participate as needed.
- c. *National Research Support Project Review Committee.* The ESCOP National Research Support Project (NRSP) Review Committee (NRSP RC) is charged with establishing criteria for annual review of NRSPs and for review of proposals for revised or new NRSPs; annually reviewing progress and budget for existing NRSPs; developing and overseeing the process of review of proposals for revised and new NRSPs including selection of reviewers, establishment of protocols for the review, and development of the specific charges to the review panel; recommending to ESS the establishment of new NRSPs, continuation of revised NRSPs and continuation of existing NRSPs; advocating for the NRSP system by assuring a documentation system is in place including development of impact analysis; and assuring that the NRSP portfolio is monitored and is responsive to research support needs identified by ESCOP or the NRSP RC. The NRSP RC shall be subject to all procedures and policies in the current NRSP Guidelines. The Chair of this committee serves a two-year term and rotates among the four regions in the following order: NCRA, WAAESD, NERA, and SAAESD.

International Committee on Organization and Policy (ICOP)

1. Comprised of the following members:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair (Chair-elect)
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Past-Chair
 - e. Two members from each of the 1862 regions

- f. One member from the 1890 region
 - g. Representatives from:
 - i. ACOP
 - ii. ECOP
 - iii. ESCOP
 - iv. Board on Veterinary Medicine
 - v. Board on Natural Resources
 - vi. CARET
 - vii. Board on Human Sciences
2. ICOP is the operational committee of the International Agriculture Section. ICOP shall formulate policy and carry out the business of the Section as expressed in referenda and general business meetings. It conducts business through the following committees
- a. **Program Committee** – responsible for organizing the program for the IAS at each annual meeting in the Fall. The Committee is also responsible, on a rotating basis, for organizing the program for the summer Joint COPS meeting.
 - b. **International Development and Agriculture Coordinating Committee** – serves as the legislative and advocacy committee of the International Agriculture Section. Its responsibilities include, but are not limited to: interact and communicate with Congress and federal agencies to promote the priority programs and budgets of the Section; establish legislative and budget priorities as they relate to international activities, consistent with the BAA Federal relations program; build supportive coalitions with other interested stakeholders; and recommend new programs, including those that are linked to multi-state and national initiatives.

Regional Research and Extension Directors/Administrators Associations

- 1. The ten independent regional associations' membership consists of directors, associate directors, and assistant directors (or their equivalents) of agricultural experiment stations, agricultural research, and cooperative extension services throughout the United States and its Territories. An Executive Director manages each association and is housed at one of the member institutions.
- 2. The associations facilitate and coordinate multistate activities and are proactive regarding national policy issues related to authorizations, appropriations, strategic planning, partnerships, competitive grant programs and special initiatives.
- 3. The ten associations are:
 - a. **1890 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA)**
 - b. **Association of 1890 Research Directors (ARD)**
 - c. **Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED)**
 - d. **North Central Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA)**
 - e. **North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA)**
 - f. **Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors' Association (NEED)**
 - g. **Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA)**
 - h. **Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD)**
 - i. **Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (WAAESD)**
 - j. **Western Extension Directors Association (WEDA)**