

Report of the Budget and Advocacy Committee

February 22, 2006

This report provides a record of the decisions reached by the Budget and Advocacy Committee (BAC) of NASULGC's Board on Agriculture Assembly concerning budget/appropriations for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) in F.Y. 2007

Background

The BAC's work on the F.Y. 2007 budget began during its meeting in July 2005 when tentative decisions were reached on the CSREES "priorities." These priorities were confirmed during the BAC's meeting in November 2005 and preliminary dollar amounts assigned to the requests. The F.Y. 2007 process came to fruition on February 8-9, 2006, when final decisions were made about priority line items and funding amounts in response/reaction to the President's Budget Request.

Release of the President's F.Y. 2007 Budget

The CSREES Budget released on February 6 contained several items of interest/concern to the BAC:

1. Research Formula Funds.

- a. Hatch Act.** The Budget included a proposal that "55 percent of Hatch formula funds be redirected to nationally competitively awarded multistate projects by 2011."
- b. McIntire-Stennis.** The Budget also contained a proposal that "60 percent of McIntire-Stennis funds be redirected to nationally competitively awarded multistate grants."
- c. Animal Health and Disease.** Funding for this program, currently at \$5.0 million, would be eliminated under the Budget proposal.

2. National Research Initiative (NRI).

- a. Increased Funding.** The NRI would increase by \$66.33 million over the F.Y. 2006 enacted level: (1) \$42.29 million from transfer of the Sec. 406 programs (see next item); and (2) \$24.04 million in "new monies."
- b. Section 406 Programs.** Funding for these programs would be moved from the Integrated Activities section of the CSREES budget to the NRI. (Programs under other authorities would remain in this section.)

3. Agrosecurity.

- a. Animal and Plant Diagnostic Labs and EDEN.** These programs would receive a \$2.1 million increase under the President's Budget Request.
- b. Agrosecurity Curricula.** For the third year in a row, the President proposed a new \$5 million program for development of agrosecurity curricula.

4. Misc. Funding Increases. Most CSREES programs would receive level funding or nominal increases. A few lines received greater increases: (1) Evans-Allen, \$650k; (2) Graduate Fellowships, \$740k; (3) 1890s Extension, \$540k; (4) Indian Reservation Agents, \$990k; (5) Pest Management, \$790k; (6) Youth at Risk, \$750k; (7) eXtension, \$1,490k; (8) Critical Issues, Plant & Animal Diseases, \$1,740k; and (9) Asian Soybean Rust, \$2,280k.

The BAC’s Funding Recommendations. The BAC recommends funding increases for 20 CSREES line items that deserve and need “priority attention.”

Line Item and Recommended Funding Level	
■ Hatch Act.....	\$195,000,000
■ McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	24,500,000
■ Animal Health and Disease	5,500,000
■ Evans-Allen Program	41,000,000
■ Institution Challenge Grants.....	6,000,000
■ Smith Lever 3(b) and 3(c)	300,000,000
■ Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program	68,500,000
■ 1890s Extension	37,000,000
■ 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants.....	24,500,000
■ 1890 Facilities (Sec. 1447).....	24,500,000
■ 1994 Institutions Research	3,000,000
■ 1994 Institutions Extension	5,000,000
■ 1994 Institutions Equity Grant Program.....	3,300,000
■ Graduate Fellowship Grants	4,455,000
■ New Technologies for Extension (eXtension)	2,970,000
■ Renewable Resources Extension Act	8,000,000
■ Resident Instruction Grants - Insular Areas	1,500,000
■ Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	12,000,000
■ Agrosecurity Education.....	5,000,000
■ National Research Initiative	247,500,000

The BAC’s Response to the President’s Budget

1. Research Formula Funds.

- a. Hatch Act.** The BAC opposes the President’s Budget Request proposal to change the methodology for distributing Hatch funds through a multistate, competitively-awarded proposal program. We support instead a process to bring CSREES and NASULGC’s Experiment Station Section together to explore alternatives in anticipation of completion of the CREATE-21 process and reauthorization of the Farm Bill.
- b. McIntire-Stennis.** Unlike the Hatch Act, there is no legal requirement that a percentage of McIntire-Stennis funding be spent on multistate projects. In the absence of such authorizing language and without a better understanding of how such a requirement would be equitably implemented, the BAC opposes the McIntire-Stennis proposal contained in the President’s Budget Request.

c. **Animal Health and Disease.** The BAC opposes the President's Request to eliminate funding for this base fund program. While this program is not large in size, it provides critical base funding to more than 65 institutions across the United States.

2. National Research Initiative.

a. **Increased Funding.** The BAC followed its long-standing policy of not "undercutting" the Administration's Budget Request for the NRI and we support, therefore, the \$247.5 million level proposed by the President.

b. **Section 406 Programs.** The BAC is opposed at this time to the Administration's proposal to move the Sec. 406 programs to the NRI.

3. Agrosecurity.

a. **Animal and Plant Diagnostic Labs and EDEN.** As in prior years, the BAC endorsed the level set forth in the Budget Request (\$12.0 million) for these programs.

b. **Agrosecurity Curricula Development.** As in prior years, the BAC also endorsed the Administration's Request (\$5.0 million) for this critical new initiative.

4. Misc. Funding Increases. The BAC endorses the funding levels set forth in the President's Budget Request for Graduate Fellowships (\$4.455 million) and eXtension (\$2.970 million). However, the BAC continues to support higher levels for other items on its priority list (see above), including Evans-Allen (\$41.0 million) and 1890s Extension (\$37.0 million).

Other BAC Decisions

The BAC also agreed to seek legislative language that would ensure that all eligible institutions (including America's Historical Black 1890 Land-Grant Universities and Tuskegee University) would receive no less than \$100,000 per year under the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert D. Steele, Chair
Budget and Advocacy Committee