

Conference Call Minutes
Family & Consumer Sciences Taskforce for Program Advancement
July 23, 2007

Taskforce Participants:

Ann Austin, HEU Graduate Commission; Duane Whitbeck, HEU Undergraduate Commission; **Jorge Atiles**, University of Georgia, Extension representative to this taskforce; Bonnie Braun, AAFCS President-Elect; **Billie Collier**, Past President of Council of Administrators of FCS (CAFCS); Janet Pope, Chair, CAFCS; **Gearldean Johnson**, Council of 1890s FCS Administrators; **Barbara Stewart**, College, University and Research section of AAFCS, University & Research Section; **Virginia Vincenti**, AAFCS, Past President; Gay Nell McGinnis, AAFCS Credentialing Director; and Steve Jorgensen, Chair, AAFCS HEU; Francille Firebaugh, Senior Consultant to the Provost, Visiting Fellow International Agriculture, & Former Dean of the College of Human Ecology. (Boldface indicates participants on 7/23/07)

Taskforce Goal: To proactively and collaboratively strengthen FCS higher education programs.

Barbara Stewart volunteered to take the minutes.

The May 7, 2007 minutes were accepted by consensus as distributed.

Adjustments were made to the agenda to accommodate those present and absent from the call.

Old Business:

Update on sessions at AAFCS: not discussed in Duane's absence.

Budget (Should we compile all sources & uses in the CAFCS-TFPA account?): not discussed.

Update on Nomenclature work (letters to AERA & ETS,): not discussed in Duane's absence.

(List of all "places" where HE has been changed to FCS)

Case study examples, of recent structural changes, OK State U., KSU: not discussed in Steve's absence

Update on TFPA-WIS database project

Ginny reported that the student hired to update and "clean up" the database resigned. A replacement is being sought. Dale continues to work (few hours) on maintenance of the database, handling comments, and keeping a list of needed changes both aesthetic and substantive.

New Business:

Future funding for TFPA-WIS w/ another org for continuing funding

Ginny reported that a substantial portion of the \$10,000 funding remains.

New leader for TFPA-WIS

Ginny requested that someone take over the management of the database on an ongoing basis. Existing funds could be transferred and a local person could be hired. The hard work of development has been completed. Neither Ginny nor Dale felt that they can continue.

Jorge suggested that since there were not many participants on the conference call that an email request be sent. It was noted that the need was already circulated as part of the conference call agenda and that Ginny had mentioned the need at the HEU meeting. No volunteers came forward.

Billie stated that we need to know how useful the data is. Ginny responded that analysis is not possible until the data is clean. Barbara reminded that a counter could indicate at least access. Gearldean remembered that Steve was going to be asked to check with Dorothy on the inclusion of a counter. Barbara requested to know how much time was needed to maintain the database. Ginny responded that the time commitment would not be large. Tasks needed would include prompting people to keep it up to date, adding new features, and tracking when information was last updated.

Jorge suggested that AAFCS might take responsibility with financial contributions from the other two organizations. Barbara inquired whether this project might be appropriate within the AAFCS communities

structure. Whether staff was assigned to communities was discussed. It was agreed that someone needs to be responsible. Jorge stated that the project is central to AAFCS goals. Ginny agreed to talk to Carolyn on Thursday to explore whether AAFCS might take responsibility with funding from all three organizations.

New Chair for TFPA

Ginny requested that someone else assume the role of TFPA chair. Beginning in fall 2003, Ginny has served in that capacity for nearly 4 years. Jorge suggested that the role of chair would be influenced by whether the TFPA evolved to become an AAFCS community. Comment was made that a chair could be elected preferably for two years for continuity.

The question was raised whether the TFPA had achieved its goals and/or what is left to do. The Taskforce goal "to proactively and collaboratively strengthen FCS higher education programs" was reviewed. Accomplishments to date include the website and its contents, the database, presentations, and continuous discussion of how to strengthen programs.

A perceived change in the climate of FCS programs in higher education was discussed. Less restructuring appears to be occurring presently. The continued need for proactive rather than reactive initiatives was noted. Jorge suggested the need to have the three organizations meet to discuss the current challenges and what needs to be done. Ginny inquired why the environment had changed. It was thought useful to know whether it was the result of external influences or something accomplished within the profession. This was seen as an important question for study. Billie shared that CAFCS and BOHS do not meet jointly until February 2009 so that the AAFCS 2008 meeting in June would be the next shared meeting time. Billie also inquired whether AAFCS had information on the change in climate for higher education. HEU was considered as a possible source. Ginny reported that the article on the Taskforce written by her and Barbara is due to be published in the *Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences*. She also mentioned the book *University Inc.* as one she found valuable.

Discussion of higher education included a current "market mentality", issues of environment and sustainability, and the influence of research funding. Ginny recalled the need to track people within the profession who have moved into central administrative positions. Billie shared that several years ago such a panel presentation was made.

The possibility of creating an AAFCS community was explored. Barbara inquired whether information was available on the level of funding available. She stated that the Policies and Information Handbook available on the AAFCS website did not give that detail. Jorge agreed to put together a draft proposal for a community. He thought he would have something to which TFPA members can respond by late August or early September. Billie suggested that useful language was available on the TFPA website in the initial Taskforce document.

Some discussion centered on concerns for the loose nature of the community structure. Jorge felt that having specific measurable outcomes based on goals would be useful. More guided focus from the board was discussed as useful. Billie stated that some communities will struggle while others will serve as models.

Headcounter on TFPA website (one or one for each page?): not discussed in Steve's absence.

Other challenges we should be addressing?

Questions researchers should be addressing about our field/discipline/profession in higher education?

See discussion above. Research questions that emerged included: a) What changes or shifts have occurred in the higher education environment that influence FCS programs? and b) What is needed to maintain a positive environment?

Next conf call date and time will be September 13th at 2:30 EDST, 3:30 CDST, 4:30 EDST.