

Minutes
Family & Consumer Sciences Taskforce for Program Advancement
November 21, 2005, 4 p.m. EDST, 3 p.m. CDST, 2 p.m. MDST

Taskforce Participants (underline denotes participation):

Ann Austin, HEU Graduate Commission; Duane Whitbeck, HEU Undergraduate Commission; Lynda Harriman, Oklahoma State University, Extension representative to this taskforce; Dixie Crase, AAFCS President-Elect; Carol Kellett, Board of Human Sciences (BOHS); Frances Shipley, Past President of Council of Administrators of FCS (CAFCS); Mary Pritchard, Chair, CAFCS; Gearldean Johnson, 1890s Institution 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.

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

Barbara volunteered to take minutes for the first portion of the meeting.

Minutes of the October 31, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed with the additions circulated by Steve.

Old Business:

1. Ginny inquired regarding the Extension data that was circulated whether this data should be incorporated into the Task Force data set or maintained separately. It was decided that since the Extension work is more refined and currently only covers the southern region that integration is premature. Linda agreed to contact Lynn Russell regarding linking the Extension data to the Task Force data on the website.
2. Ginny reported that for the AAFCS program proposal with central administrators that an 1890 administrator was needed. Virginia Caples at Alabama A & M was suggested. Approaching Francille Firebaugh to request the current administrator from Cornell was discussed. It was decided that a panel of four was appropriate and that Ginny would contact Virginia only. As a back-up possibility for an 1890 school contacting Gladys Sheldon at North Carolina A & T was suggested.

New Business:

1. Future Search Summit: December 2-4, 2005 in Atlanta: Task Force members attending include Carole, Mary, and Ginny

Carol shared general comments regarding the focus group conversation output. She expressed concerns regarding focus on the name *Family and Consumer Sciences* and on issues that have been part of organizational discussions for the past 2-3 decades. Her hope is that the focus will be on coming together in a new beginning rather than just revitalizing the existing. Concerns had been expressed regarding diminishing higher education but no solutions had been presented. The new organizational focus will be on teachers and extension personnel.

Ginny mentioned that during the Leadership Conference in the fall that staff already had business cards with "Life Skills" printed on them. Linda Wilson felt these cards had already opened opportunities. Ginny's concern was that this had been done prior to the December meeting.

The resignation of Karen Tucker was discussed. It was noted that a plan for an interim director was not clear from the email announcing Karen's resignation. It is anticipated that the Board will meet in the morning prior to the Future Search Summit. Karen's direction, it had been felt, was based on the largest area(s) of membership.

Discussion of vision for the future of the organization including most important components to maintain:

Concern for the potential loss of the research base for the support of secondary and extension programs was expressed (Barbara). Specialized organizations have accelerated this trend as individuals present and publish in specialized venues.

Linda shared her vision that the association focus on critical issues such as the obesity focus last year. That is the sort of thing that AAFCS can do. Just like a parent whose children grew up, the

organization still has a mission. Cross-disciplinary research can contribute in a way that specialization cannot.

Ann stated that research and teaching was enriched by an issue focus. Whether such focus had helped or hindered annual meeting attendance ended with Gay Nell's report that attendance was up last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Stewart

AAFCS like no other organization can bring people together from across the disciplines to target interdisciplinary issues.

We may want to re-title the Journal to include the word Interdisciplinary to encourage researchers from other disciplines to contribute.

Have an issue focus as the vision for the Association helps clarify the Association's public policy agenda.

AAFCS can bring together through publications and annual meetings all of the specializations, plus other experts (ie. medical law, public policy) together to address critical socio-economic issues.

Take care not to just focus on AAFCS's organizational structure; focus on organizational priorities and then on how best to address those priorities. Don't just rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic!

Many research RFPs today require interdisciplinary teams, so there is a demand for outlets for this kind of work.

AAFCS could provide seed grants for interdisciplinary research, possibly from the Massachusetts Ave. Fund.

Research presentations at the annual meeting could focus on the research findings and their implications for practice, so that research really is informing practice. How research is presented is key to practitioners being interested and really informed.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on December 12, 3:00 Central time. Same call in numbers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Harriman