

ESP/International Committee - Meeting Minutes January 10, 2003

- I. Meeting called to order at 12 noon by Chair, John Preissing. Present: Mary Crave; Dave Hinds; Arlen Albrecht; Kristin Hill; and John Preissing.
- II. No minutes were read or approved.
- III. Review of Results of International Planning Retreat – The group reviewed the results and the top goals.
 - A. Under developing an International Issues Team (or Team International) there was general agreement that this was a priority. This would include a web presence, a reporting mechanism, further development of action plans around the top goals, and development of an evaluation plan for the issue. The team would consult with PD&E for the development of some this as well as with Mary Lucas.
 - B. The development of a scholarship context was seen as important, but no specifics were explored. It may be possible to learn from others how the new and different work from international experiences is translated into extension scholarship. Perhaps the AIAEE is a place to start?
 - C. Institutional capacity building in international work. A greater internet presence with links to other organizations was seen as key.
 - D. Staff training – This was seen as important. A needs assessment, a scan for other trainings, and resources and trainings needed for this were noted.
 - E. Develop Evaluation instruments – There was agreement that this was an important and missing piece in speaking to the benefit of international work. Both benefit of work overseas to overseas' audiences and benefit to local audiences, in concrete ways is missing. This is also something that we could learn more about from others and could be part of a grant proposal.

The participants believed that there might be sufficient work plans that could be fulfilled, with some modicum of support. John Preissing will present the findings to the UWEX Cooperative Extension administrative team for support and approval as a plan of action. The team will also explore outside funding to develop some of these components.

IV. Recent Trips Abroad

Recent trips to Nicaragua were discussed as well as the overall Farmer to Farmer program. Arlen Albrecht noted that at the national level, the Wisconsin – Nicaraguan partnership was praised. Efforts were being made to increase the number of exchanges occurring above our original quota. Because of this, Arlen spoke of some upcoming opportunities that would be focusing on grazing and farm management.

Dave Hinds also spoke of the recent local government training programs that were supported (Cornerstone Project). This program was well received by the Nicaraguan officials, but it did require quite a bit of work.

V. Recent international opportunities.

This was discussed under IV.

VI. Upcoming CSREES International Planning Retreat

John Preissing and Arlen Albrecht spoke of the conference. Two papers were submitted for possible consideration. We hope to learn more about other state programs and about resources to assist our programs. As of now John Preissing and JoAnn Hinz are planning to attend. Arlen reported that he or another member of the team that wrote on international programs would be willing to attend provided their paper was accepted.

VII. International Travel Policies

The University of Wisconsin system is requiring insurance coverage when traveling on university business. Currently, the belief was that each trip was sponsored and supported by a federal partner or their partner or that the trips were being done as private citizens. Our policies should address this more clearly. John Preissing will be asked to review this with JoAnn Hinz.

VIII. WAEP Session

The committee opted to wait until the next session to discuss this.

IX. Scholarship Outreach proposals

John Preissing encouraged the committee to consider submitting proposals to next year's outreach conference. The Cornerstone Project (local government training) would make a great example. Applications are due March 13, 2003.

X. Other business

There was a discussion about being careful not to overstate the amount of international work that is occurring or the level of programming it entails. State agencies and the general public will feel the current budget restrictions. Also, the role that our international assistance provides in building up democracies and ensuring economic development are important ways that we can contribute to US goals.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for Friday February 14, 2003 at 12 noon via wisline.