

Regional Directors/Program Leaders Meeting
102 Morgan Hall, Knoxville
April 14, 2008

Present: Charles Goan, Mike Gordon, Herb Lester, Tim Fawver, Connie Heiskell, Brenda Voiles, Shirley Hastings, Tim Cross, Jim Stewart, Linda Bower, Lynn Brookins, David Perrin, Richard Powell, Herb Byrd, Patsy Ezell, Alice Ann Moore, Jim Stewart, Alice Ann Moore.

1. **Budget Situation (Goan, Fawver)**

Last week we were notified there is a possibility of:

- 5 percent reduction in the state budget
- a rescission of funds this year
- mandate to fund a 1 or 2 percent salary increase

Goan and Fawver have worked on scenarios on how to handle. No positions will be filled, and there will be no supplemental funds for travel until we know what the budget situation is. Should know something by May 15. Goan passed out a list of vacancies.

2. **Change Agent States Meeting Report (Byrd)**

Last week Hastings, Cross and Byrd attended a Change Agent States for Diversity Project training. Byrd reported the training was a very practically oriented training geared toward how to make diversity changes in higher education. TSU also had 3 in attendance. The group came out with ideas and plans to make a difference in diversity in TN.

3. **Diversity Climate Survey (Byrd)**

Have a draft copy of diversity climate survey results. Will be sending them out for review.

4. **Civil Rights Audit (Byrd)**

Have not heard any details about the CSREES audit scheduled for June 2-6. Will let you know as soon as we hear details. *(Note: Have requested that audit be postponed until July 28-August 1)*

5. **Update on County Extension Emergency Management Plan (Cross)**

A committee chaired by Tim Prather has developed a draft emergency management plan, which will include overall UT plan, departmental and county plans. Cross suggested sharing with county directors at upcoming meeting to let them know this is what we are going to work on; ask them to complete the plan, and then offer Centra training as followup. Or if face-to-face training is needed, we could schedule in the future. Probably need one person in each county to have credentials to represent Extension and offer our resources to Response and Recovery. Cross will have Tim Prather to contact regional directors to work out sharing with counties and scheduling Centra training.

6. **Extension Dean Search (Hastings)**

Finalizing schedule for on-campus interviews. Will share information and seminar dates

as soon as they are finalized. Webcast will be live and archived for later viewing. There will be an on-line survey for people to complete. If there are specific questions that need to be asked at seminars, send to Hastings and she will make sure they are asked.

7. **Tennessee State University (Chesney)**

- TSU is excited about the Change Agent States diversity training attended in Texas. Looking forward to working as team.
- Latif Lighari will be going to South Dakota as Associate Director of Extension at end of May. Will try to have reception May 25.
- Finalized draft of academic master plan.
- Will be meeting with new Dean on April 24 to learn his vision for the school.
- TSU filling positions.

8. **Election of Regional Representative to UTIA Advisory Council**

Goan asked the group to elect a regional representative to serve a 3-year term on the UTIA Advisory Council beginning in July 2008. The group elected Lynn Brookins.