

SR-PLN IT Meeting Minutes  
10/9/2014 – 11:00 am eastern

Attendees: Sam Boyster (Arkansas), Rhonda Conlon (North Carolina), Karen Craig (Tuskegee), Jonathan Davis (Auburn), Steve Garner (Kentucky), Dwayne Hunter (Oklahoma), Yolanda Surrency (Fort Valley), Rich Phelps (Kentucky), Lalit Rainey (North Carolina A&T), Jim Segers (Texas A&M), Terrence Wolfork (Fort Valley), Emily Tipton (Tennessee), Travis Zetterower (Georgia)

Guest: Anne Adrian (eXtension), Robert Ridenour (Tennessee)

Meeting convened by Rich Phelps at 11:00 am eastern. Roll call conducted

### Plan of Work Updates

Item 1 - Communicate and serve in an advisory role to eXtension. Continue learning about the new eXtension model and look for ways to promote its use. (Rich Phelps)

Anne Adrian, eXtension Associate Director, provided an update on the progress toward a new operational model for eXtension.

- Due to budgetary changes, many universities find it difficult paying an assessment, 0.08% of allocated Smith-Lever funds, to support eXtension. This combined with findings of an external audit have led to the restructuring of eXtension and reevaluation of supported services.
- Focus will shift to innovation and professional development focusing on cutting edge technologies and emerging issues. This focus will supplement university efforts and potentially provide opportunities that would otherwise not be available. Leadership will be provided through a board of directors, represented by participating members, and guided by a hired director.
- A new membership based model has been developed and will be shared at the upcoming ECOP meeting with an expected vote after the APLU meeting. The vote will contain two actions:
  - To abolish the existing assessment based model
  - To approve and move to a membership based model
    - Non-member, free: Use of Ask an Expert, Learn, Search and targeted Communities of Practice.
    - Basic Member, a percentage of current assessment: Non-member benefits plus access to evaluation and reporting services to include impact data. Reduced conference registration fee. Representation and voting rights on the eXtension governing board.
    - Premium Member, 75% of the current assessment: Basic member benefits plus consulting opportunities, invitation to participate in innovative development opportunities, access to canned and ability to develop Moodle courses, fellowship, exposed to partnership and funding opportunities.
- The current funding model is expected to support services through December 2015. If approved, the membership based model will begin in 2016.

Questions:

- Will partnering opportunities include non-profits?  
Yes. A three year plan is anticipated to make the complete transition to the new model.

- Is the proposed structure change and membership levels documentation available?  
No, not at this time. Information is only available through eXtension channels, however, material could be available soon after the ECOP meeting.
- What membership level is required to develop Moodle courses?  
Premium Membership.
- What is different about collaboration across discipline groups?  
eXtension is actively seeking input from professional development and IT groups. This could lead to new professional development and collaboration opportunities, such as the upcoming Second Machine Age session to be hosted on Learn.
- Are any IT unit directors included in the advisory group? Concerns were voiced in the SR-PLN group about lack of IT representation.  
No, not at this time. State Extension directors will be asked to nominate individuals who are 'working differently' and can represent agents in the field or specialists.
- How will eXtension ensure new endeavors can be supported by home institutions as well as follow compliance policies and infrastructure environments?  
Great point. A note has been included to discuss with directors.

Item 2 - Collaborate with Communications Committee to explore tools when creating content that considers ADA compliance and mobile access. (Rhonda Conlon / Neal Vines)

No formal update, however, Rhonda will be reaching out to Neal in the near future.

Item 3 - Share policies and procedures to manage equipment and sensitive information that adhere to information security frameworks and risks. (Steve Garner / Emily Tipton)

Steve discussed his efforts in Kentucky to develop policy and procedures to address data storage and security breach response. Materials should be available soon to share.

Emily introduced Robert Ridenour, UT Institute of Agriculture CIO, to provide an overview of the UT System and UTIA efforts to create a comprehensive security philosophy to support NIST standards. Robert and Emily will be sharing documents with the group as they are finalized.

Collected materials to support this work item are posted:

[http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/IT\\_Security:\\_Policy\\_and\\_Procedures](http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/IT_Security:_Policy_and_Procedures)

Committee discussion concerning other land grant activities.

None

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 11:00 am eastern

Submitted by: Emily Tipton