

**Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP)
and
Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP)**

January 11, 2001

Dear Extension and Research Administrators, Liaisons, and other Interested Individuals:

In recent years the future of the land grant university system has been studied by a wide variety of individuals and organizations. Each study has challenged the research and extension communities to change and evolve. In an effort to incorporate their recommendations for change into our everyday environments, the Strategic Planning Council of ECOP and the Planning Committee of ESCOP have pursued joint planning activities. The purpose of these activities was to better address national issues from a combined research and extension perspective. Implications of each study were reviewed and recommendations forwarded to ECOP and ESCOP on how to address key issues.

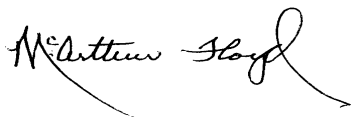
The Joint Planning Committee (JPC) reviewed the following documents:

- “Food System Professions Education Initiative”, W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- “The Engaged Institution”, W. K. Kellogg Foundation
- “Colleges of Agriculture at the Land Grant Universities - A Profile”, National Research Council, Board on Agriculture
- “Colleges of Agriculture at the Land Grant Universities - Public Service and Public Policy”, National Research Council, Board on Agriculture
- “Rethinking the Outlook of Colleges Whose roots Have Been in Agriculture”, James H. Meyer
- “The Stalemate in Food and Agricultural Research, Teaching and Extension”, James H. Meyer
- “Transforming the Land Grant College of Agriculture for the Twenty-First Century”, James H. Meyer
- “Re-Engineering the Land Grant College of Agriculture”, James H. Meyer
- “The Historical Trek of the Land Grant College of Agriculture”, James H. Meyer

The key issues and concerns raised by each report were explored relative to how ECOP and ESCOP might facilitate improvement within the Land Grant colleges of agriculture extension and research systems. The JPC’s final report was delivered and approved at the joint ECOP/ESCOP Executive Committee meeting in Denver on August 9. This report, entitled “Strategies for Enhanced Engagement”, is available in the ESCOP Workroom at <http://www.escop.msstate.edu/committee/engage.pdf>.

We submit this document to the organizations who commissioned these studies, key clientele and stakeholder groups, and the general public, as ECOP and ESCOP’s response to the recommendations contained in these reports. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to an exciting and challenging future as extension and research within the Land Grant colleges of agriculture work together in the new century. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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