

FALCON Membership Meeting

**USDA NIFA Waterfront Centre
Washington, DC**

November 3, 2013

DRAFT MINUTES

Call to Order

Benita Liston called the meeting to order at 9:41 am, November 3, 2013.

Approve Agenda

The business meeting agenda was reviewed. *A motion to approve the agenda was made by Leslie Henry and seconded by Ron Solimon. The agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.*

Approve Minutes

The draft minutes from the October 27, 2012 FALCON membership meeting were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by Susan Given-Seymour and seconded by Sam Orozco. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.*

Executive Director's Report

John Phillips, FALCON Executive Director, presented the report. His Powerpoint presentation is available on the FALCON Web portal.

- The major highlights from 2012/2013 were reported as follows:
 - ✓ The FALCON 2012 Conference in Albuquerque had the highest attendance ever (about 150); almost all 1994s represented.
 - ✓ FALCON assisted the USDA 1994 Program in developing and delivering its Tribal Fellows Program in Washington, DC.
 - ✓ FALCON facilitated a series of conference calls and e-mail discussions related to proposal development for the NIFA Research Leadership Grant program.
 - ✓ FALCON announced an annual FALCON-sponsored 50% tuition scholarship (worth about \$5,000) for one 1994 applicant to participate in the LEAD21 Leadership Development Program each year.
- The federal budgets for FY 2014 are currently under a CR (continuing resolution) and are thus set at FY 2013 funding levels. The CR expires on January 15, 2014. Current FY 2014 funding levels restore cuts from FY 2013 and, if passed, would be beneficial for the 1994s. For FY 2015, the AIHEC funding priorities for land-grant programs remain as before: growth in Extension and Research programs, and no reductions in any other programs.

- A one-year Farm Bill extension is currently in effect, but will expire by the end of the year. There is much uncertainty in what may happen. Key 1994 amendments are as follows:
 - ✓ Open research partnerships to include non-land grant institutions, schools of forestry, and ARS.
 - ✓ Add two new TCUs to the land grant system; Muscogee Nation (Okmulgee OK) and Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (Baraga, MI).
 - ✓ Add TCUs to eligible institutions to apply for two Smith-Lever competitive programs: the Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) (formerly Extension Indian Reservation Program) and Children Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR).
- The National Extension and Research Administrative Officers' Conference (NERAOC) is a conference for land grant institutions administrators and project directors, and will be held in Indianapolis, IN; April 27-30, 2014. John Phillips (FALCON) is on the planning committee and there will be three sessions focused on the 1994 land-grant institutions. There will be a limited number of \$550 full registration scholarships for 1994 participants.
- The venues for the FALCON annual conferences for the next three years were presented, as follows:
 - ✓ 2014, Nov. 8-11, in Minneapolis, MN
 - ✓ 2015, Nov. 7-10, in Denver, CO
 - ✓ 2016, in Albuquerque, NM

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by John Phillips, as Carrie Sue Schumacher was unable to attend.

Income from December, 2012 through October, 2013 were as follows:

2012 Conference (reg fees, NIFA):	\$48,241
Subcontracts (Ag-biz, Leadership):	\$41,443
Total:	\$105,913

Expenses (Dec. 2012 – Oct. 2013) were as follows:

2012 Conference:	\$16,743
Subcontracts (Ag-biz):	\$28,942
Student Scholarships:	\$20,149
ED travel:	\$5,992
Total:	\$72,059

Total profit/loss ((Dec. 2012 – Oct. 2013): \$33,854

As of October, 2013, FALCON bank balances at Wells Fargo were as follows:

Checking Balance:	\$92,597
Savings:	\$33,400
Total:	\$125,997

Officer Nominations

The FALCON Board of Directors recommended the nomination of a list of candidates for the positions of Treasurer. The current Treasurer, Carrie Sue Schumacher, cannot complete her term. An e-mail vote will take place in about two weeks. Nominations for Treasurer were accepted for the following individuals:

Pat Aune, United Tribes Technical College

Shawn Bordeaux, Sinte Gleska University

Kim Boy, Blackfeet Community College

Ron Solimon, Institute for American Indian Arts

Sam Orozco moved that nominations cease, and Gary Halvorson seconded the motion. The motion to cease nominations was approved by unanimous voice vote.

By-law Amendments

FALCON by-laws require amending to stay current with technology and standard operating practices. The following by-law amendments were presented for discussion. A referendum vote on the by-law amendments will take place in several weeks. Each 1994 president will be contacted to reaffirm their institution's FALCON voting member.

- ✓ Section Five(2a) states: "Newly elected FALCON Board of Directors' terms of office shall commence at the first membership or Board of Directors meeting after the election, at which time they must be present. Should an Board member-elect not be present at the first membership or Board of Directors meeting after the election, then a special election will be held with due speed to nominate and elect a replacement Board member."

Action: Amend Section Five(2a) as follows, "Newly elected FALCON Board of Directors' terms of office shall commence immediately upon election. Should a newly elected Board member not be present at the first Board of Directors meeting after the election, then the first runner-up to the election shall be appointed to the Board. If there is no runner-up, or if the runner-up fails to be present at the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting, then a special election will be held with due speed to nominate and elect a replacement Board member."

Rationale: Newly elected Board members need to address FALCON business matters immediately upon election and waiting for infrequent Board of Directors meetings can delay important Board decisions.

- ✓ Section Five(2d) states: "The Ex-officio and the FALCON President will appoint two unbiased individuals to count all ballots. One person shall be designated to open election ballot envelopes and the second person shall be designated to count said ballots. The FALCON Board of Directors shall decide any ties between candidates by vote."

Action: Amend Section Five(2d) as follows: "The Ex-officio and the FALCON President will appoint two unbiased individuals to count all ballots. The FALCON Board of Directors shall decide any ties between candidates by vote."

Rationale: Ballots are now cast via e-mail, and so no ballot envelopes are opened and counted.

- ✓ Section Five(5a) states: "All such proposed amendments, together with the FALCON Board of Directors comments, shall be mailed to the voting membership in good standing with a ballot, by September 15 of that year. It is the obligation of the voting membership to return their ballot to the FALCON executive director, postmarked not later than October 30 of that year."

Action: Amend Section Five(5a) as follows: "All such proposed amendments, together with the FALCON Board of Directors comments, shall be presented at the annual FALCON Membership Meeting. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. Ballots will be sent to all FALCON voting members in good standing, e-mailed by the FALCON Executive Director within 30 days of the annual FALCON Membership Meeting. It shall be the obligation of the voting membership to return the ballots to the FALCON Executive Director within a two-week voting period."

Rationale: Voting by e-mail/Web is the most efficient manner to conduct elections, and ensures the most participation of FALCON voting members.

- ✓ Section Five(5b) states: "Any by-law amendments, which are approved by a majority vote of the eligible voters, and for which all voting procedures were complete on the second Tuesday of December of any given year shall be effective on January 1 of the following year. All vote results shall be made available to the membership."

Action: Amend Section Five(5b) as follows: "Any by-law amendments, which are approved by a majority vote of the eligible voters, and for which all voting procedures were completed shall be effective immediately. All vote results shall be made available to the membership."

Rationale: Votes are no longer conducted according to specific calendar dates, and this amendment makes by-laws effective immediately upon a proper election.

- ✓ Section Five(5c) states: "The FALCON Board of Directors may propose a by-law amendment at any time with the approval of a majority vote of the FALCON Board of Directors, which shall then be mailed to the voting membership as described herein. Such amendment if approved by a majority member vote, shall become effective in the same manner as stated herein."

Action: Amend Section Five(5c) as follows: "The FALCON Board of Directors may propose a by-law amendment at any time with the approval of a majority vote of the FALCON Board of Directors, which shall then be presented at the annual FALCON Membership Meeting as described herein. Such amendment if approved by a majority member vote, shall become effective in the same manner as stated herein."

Rationale: By-law amendments should be presented for discussion at the annual FALCON membership meeting before a vote. This ensures that the FALCON membership has an opportunity to provide feedback on any proposed by-law amendments.

Partnership Reports

- Michael Darger, President of NACDEP (National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals) provided an overview of his organization. They currently have an open Board position for a 1994 representative. There are several opportunities for NACDEP and FALCON to collaborate, including participation in the respective annual conferences and memberships. FALCON and NACDEP will continue to explore ways to develop a relationship.
- Lawrence Shorty, Program Director of the 1994 Office of Advocacy and Outreach, USDA, provided a brief introduction. Lavinia Panizo introduced the 1994 Tribal Fellows program and invited a panel of 2013 Fellows to share their experiences. The program was held on June 1-8, 2013, in Washington, DC, with 12 1994 institutions participating. It included land-grant planning, and discussions with agency heads from the various USDA mission areas. The Tribal Fellows panel included Colette Wolf (United Tribes Technical College), Ron Solimon (Institute of American Indian Arts), Virgil Dupuis (Salish Kootenai College), James Hafer (Chief Dull Knife College), Amber Marlow (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College), Dan Kinsey (Aaniiih Nakoda College), Leslie Henry (Oglala Lakota College), and Mary Pelcher (Saginaw Chippewa College).

Lavinia also described a VISTA volunteer partnership with USDA that will place VISTA volunteers at tribal colleges for up to three years. Lawrence Shorty provided an update on the Tribal Scholars program.

Other Business

There was no other business.

A motion to adjourn was made by Virgil Dupuis, and seconded by Sam Orozco. Adjournment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 11:53 a.m.