

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

A LEADERSHIP SUMMIT TO EFFECT CHANGE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources • Board on Life Sciences

October 3-5, 2006
National Academy of Sciences

Breakout Discussions

Over the course of the Leadership Summit, you will participate in 4 separate breakout discussions: one on Tuesday afternoon, two on Wednesday afternoon, and one on Thursday morning. As described below, all registered participants have been assigned to a particular session for 3 of the 4 breakout sessions. These assignments are based upon your position or team composition and the capacities of the various meeting rooms.

On your nametag, you will find letter and number codes, which gives you your room assignments for sessions 1, 2, and 4. The code in the lower left corner corresponds with session 1, the code in the middle corresponds with session 2, and the code in the lower right corner corresponds with session 4. For breakout session 3, please sign up in the Great Hall by 11:00 a.m. Wednesday morning. This will allow us to assign rooms based upon the number of people we expect at each session.

Abbreviation	Room Number
Aud.	Auditorium
BR	Board Room
EDR	Executive Dining Room
LR	Lecture Room
MR	Members Room
142	Room 142
146	Room 146
148	Room 148
150	Room 150
180	Room 180
227	Room 227
250	Room 250
280	Room 280

All rooms except for 227, 250, and 280 are located on the first floor. See the back cover and inside back cover of your agenda book for maps of the building.

This rest of this document provides guidance for the discussions in each of the breakout sessions. For sessions 2 and 4, a representative from each breakout group should prepare a 2-3 minute presentation to report back to all the participants on the top ideas from the discussion.

Breakout session 1: Defining the goals of an education in agriculture

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Session composition: participants from the same institution were assigned to different sessions in order to encourage as much cross-fertilization as possible.

We will begin the summit discussions by focusing on the goals for undergraduate education in agriculture. The breakout sessions follows introductory sessions that we hope will encourage you to think in new ways or think from new perspectives as you look to the future of agriculture.

Among the questions you may wish to consider include:

- What should the goals be of an undergraduate education in agriculture? What should every agriculture graduate know, understand, and be able to do?
- What do degrees in agriculture-related disciplines prepare students to do? Should or does this depend upon the institution? The specific field?
- How is an undergraduate degree in agriculture unique? How does it differ from degrees in the life and physical sciences?
- What should students who do *not* major in an agricultural discipline know about agriculture?
- Do disparities in perceptions of agriculture-related disciplines (inside and outside the college or university) affect public support for undergraduate education in agriculture, student enrollment (including diversity), relationships between agriculture and non-agriculture departments, employer interest, and placement of graduates?

Breakout session 2: Overcoming barriers to interdisciplinarity

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 1:00–2:30 p.m. (bring your lunch)

Session composition: participants from the same institution are placed in the same session, with teams are generally composed of participants from different fields. We hope these conversations on interdisciplinarity will carry over when you return home.

This session immediately follows the plenary session on agricultural education in the context of other disciplines. Speakers will give their perspectives from rural development, regulatory affairs, medicine, and nutrition. These are just a few of the other perspectives that could have been included; others include energy production, climate change, and environmental sciences. Agriculture and agricultural topics touch on many different areas and contribute to research and development in many fields.

For the breakout discussion during lunch, each group is challenged to not only identify barriers to working across disciplines, but also opportunities for overcoming those barriers. Among the questions you may wish to consider include:

- What are the fields outside of agriculture that overlap with or have the most in common with agricultural education and research?
- In what ways have faculty and administrators from colleges of agriculture worked with colleagues from other disciplines? For example, do they teach joint courses or have joint appointments?
- What are the barriers to interdisciplinary courses? Are the barriers mainly administrative? Or are there fundamental differences in approach between the agricultural sciences and other fields?
- Are there examples of successful cross-disciplinary efforts from other fields? If so, how can we apply these lessons to agriculture?
- How have the perspectives of industry or other outside organizations influenced the preparation of agriculture graduates? Do you have a mechanism for engaging stakeholders (employers, others) in a dialogue about changing aspects of agriculture that should be reflected in the learning experience?
- What steps will your team commit to implement when you return to your institution?

A representative from each breakout group should prepare a 2-3 minute presentation highlighting the most promising strategies identified by your group. More extensive written comments to the committee are also encouraged.

Breakout session 3: Concurrent topics, best practices, and implementation

Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Participants may attend any breakout session they wish. Please sign up for a session in the Great Hall: we will assign rooms for the session based upon expected attendance, as rooms have different seating capacities.

Each concurrent session will feature a 30-minute presentation from an invited speaker or speakers highlighting an issue of concern, best practice, or sample program. Following the formal presentation and question period, participants will discuss opportunities and challenges related to implementing similar objectives in other settings.

The goals of this session include: (1) highlighting best practices and promising programs; (2) providing examples of specific programs that participants can take back with them; and (3) identifying common issues and strategies for implementing programs in specific areas.

For the discussion session, the group may wish to consider several questions:

- Are the issues addressed by the speaker a general concern at your institution?
- Is the implementation experience of the presenter applicable to other institutions? Are there general themes that might apply to all institutions?
- Has your institution attempted to address these concerns already? If so, how has your experience matched that of the presenter? Were similar challenges encountered? Were the strategies for overcoming them similar?
- Are there ways to expand the discussed strategies to include additional goals and objectives?
- Are resources required for implementation available at your institution? If not, are there other ways these resources could be obtained?
- Are there opportunities for multi-institution collaborations in achieving these goals and strategies?

Breakout session 4: Identifying action items and next steps

Thursday, October 5, 2006, 8:30–10:15 a.m.

Session composition: participants were distributed according to their professional position. Stakeholder categories include teaching faculty in and outside of agriculture, administrators in and outside of colleges of agriculture, industry, professional society representatives, students, and academic services.

For this session, participants will be divided by their professional position. Participants who hold similar positions at different institutions can identify the role that they have in moving forward.

Among the questions that each stakeholder group may wish to consider are:

- What are the most promising ideas you have heard over the course of the summit?
- What are the most urgent needs? What are the most attainable objectives?
- What are the immediate steps your stakeholder group pledges to do when you return to your institution?
- What are the longer-term goals your stakeholder group will pledge to keep on the agenda? How will the conversation be continued after the summit?
- What are the greatest challenges you will face in both the immediate- and longer-terms?
- What resources will be required to implement your group's action plan? How will these resources be obtained?
- What other stakeholders need to be part of implementing your action plan? How will those stakeholders be brought into implementation of your plan?

A representative from each breakout group should prepare a 2-3 minute presentation highlighting the action plans developed by your group. What steps will your stakeholder group take in the immediate and longer terms, and what resources and partners will be necessary? More extensive written comments to the committee are also encouraged.