

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers  
UMass Collaborative Service Center, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury  
Friday, November 22, 2013**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Ted Wales, Marla Michel, Patricia Vittum, Jack Angley, Michael Lueders, Ed Davidian, Jerry Myers, John Lee, Deb Phillips

**Members Absent:** Lynn Griesemer, Patricia Bigelow, Christy Foote-Smith, Richard Chandler (representing MDAR)

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Ed Bourgeois, Mary Jane Bacon

**Guests:** Robert Schrader, Steve Goodwin, Joe Shoenfeld

**1. Welcome: Jack Angley**

Chairman Jack Angley called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM

**2. Approve minutes from April 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Jack Angley**

John Lee moved to approve the minutes. Ted Wales seconded. Minutes were accepted.

**3. Center for Agriculture Leadership Transition: Steve Goodwin**

Steve stated he was pleased to join group and noted he has met with many members in other capacities over the past year. By way of introduction, he noted the name change to Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment has been approved within UMass and will be rolled out soon.

Steve discussed the transition of leadership from Stephen Herbert to Pat Vittum. Steve stated there was a plan to conduct a search for a new director to start in 2014, however administrative differences of opinion led him to ask Stephen to step down sooner. He noted Stephen is still on the faculty and will continue to participate in Stockbridge School initiatives.

Discussion followed regarding a meeting held at UMass with Chancellor Subbaswamy related to access to UMass for entrepreneurial product development related to Stephen's tenure. John Lee summarized the meeting as being a productive and respectful discussion. Steve Goodwin noted he is committed to work to help agricultural entrepreneurs to collaborate with university faculty.

Steve then introduced Pat Vittum as interim director thanking her agreeing to assume this responsibility.

Steve turned to a discussion of the search for a new director. A search will begin in early 2014. The position will be advertised by February 1<sup>st</sup> with a goal of hiring by September 1<sup>st</sup>. In response to a request from Ed Bourgeois, Steve noted the board will be involved in development of the position description. Significant discussion ensued regarding qualifications and if a Ph.D. is required to do the job. Many comments noted the balance needed between leadership experience and academic credentials.

Pat introduced herself noting she is a turf entomologist beginning her career at the Waltham Experiment Station in 1980. Pat explained she is looking forward to the job and has had a gradual start due to teaching obligations and physical therapy related to a recent operation.

#### **4. Center for Agriculture/UMass Extension Update: Pat Vittum**

- **FY14 Financial**

Bob Schrader noted there was annual deficit in FY13 based on federal sequestration and increased personnel costs. Budget situation will lead to some belt tightening in FY14. Steve Goodwin explained a new university budgeting model, Responsibility Based Budgeting, is being introduced to campus for FY2015. The model will place increased fiscal responsibility on departments. He noted the model will roll out over the next 18 months and there will be ongoing briefing of the board.

- **Agricultural Learning Center**

Steve Goodwin stated there is a continuing commitment to develop the Agricultural Learning Center (ALS) at UMass. ALS is primarily focused on undergraduate education and is the responsibility of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Steve suggested inviting Wes Autio, SSA Director to a future meeting. Conversation followed regarding the increased level of student and public interest in agriculture. Overall the board voiced strong support for continued development of the ALS and quality agricultural academic programs at UMass.

- **Faculty & Staff**

Joe Shoenfeld provided updates on several searches and personnel related areas:

- **4-H Assistant Director**

A search is underway to fill this position. It replaces a recently retired senior Extension Educator and is met to provide higher level support functions for 4-H Programs. Search to be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning Extension Faculty**  
A search is almost complete. Primary position responsibilities focus on planning and design. Specifically responsibility includes running the Springfield Design Center, a community focused resource. This position replaces a professional position.
- **Soil Testing Lab**  
Extension Faculty member John Spargo resigned in early August. His responsibility included directing the lab and providing leadership for nutrient management recommendations. No decision has yet been made to replace the position. Lab operating responsibilities are led by Tracie Allen and Solomon Kariuki.
- **Waltham office – Geoffrey Njue**  
Geoffrey Njue began working July 1<sup>st</sup> with an office in both Wareham and Waltham. Primary responsibilities focus on working with green industries in eastern MA as well as serving as liaison to communities in the southeastern region.

## 5. Waltham Redevelopment Plan: Steve Goodwin

Steve Goodwin stated there is a commitment from him and Chancellor Subbaswamy to support this initiative for Waltham. He has met with EOEEA Commissioner Sullivan and legislators to advance the project. Steve reported there have been ongoing meetings and discussions with advocates and community leaders. The project as envisioned is a \$20 million appropriation to construct to construct a 20,000 FT<sup>2</sup> building. Kathy Carroll and Stephen Herbert presented testimony at a legislative hearing in August. BOPO members Ted Wales and Michael Lueders have participated in the advocacy efforts.

Mary Jane Bacon reported the Environmental Bond is not expected to be completed in this legislative session.

## 6. Role of BOPO Discussion: Michael Lueders

Michael reflected that he felt it would be useful to revisit the role of the board and how the board can be most helpful to UMass Extension. He noted some concern that the board had recently not been adequately engaged and proactive with issues.

In response to a question from Jack Angley, Steve Goodwin stated he feels the board has provided input in developing new positions and he sees that role continuing and increasing as the university transitions to a new budget model.

Marla Michel noted the value of the diverse interests represented on the board provide a rich opportunity to discuss issues and advise the university.

Steve suggested he would seek to arrange participation of the Chancellor for a future meeting to be held on campus.

In response to a second question from Jack Angley regarding what is most useful to CNS, Steve replied “providing input for center director search; discussion of priorities related to new budget model; and advocacy for university”.

#### **7. Board Appointments Update: Bob Schrader**

Bob Schrader noted UMass is not routinely notified when members are appointed. He noted he was informed of the appointment of Deb Phillips. Discussion followed with no other members reporting their appointment. Bob will contact UMass liaison Chris Dunne to inquire on status of the appointment process.

#### **8. Board 2014 Meeting Dates**

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 is scheduled. This date may change pending potential meeting with Chancellor Subbaswamy. April, July and October meeting dates are to be set at a later date.

Submitted by Bob Schrader, November 25, 2013