

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers  
145 Integrated Sciences Building, 661 North Pleasant Street, UMass Amherst  
Monday, January 27, 2014, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Ted Wales, Marla Michel, Patricia Vittum, Jack Angley, Michael Lueders, Ed Davidian, Jerry Myers, Deb Phillips, Lynn Griesemer, William King,

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

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

**Guests:** Kumble Subbaswamy, Robert Schrader, Steve Goodwin, Joe Shoenfeld, Wes Autio, Kathy Carroll, William Miller, Amanda Kinchla, Rick Harper, Hilary Sandler

**1. Welcome: Jack Angley**

Chairman Jack Angley called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM

**2. Approve Minutes from November 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Jack Angley**

Mike Lueders moved to approve the minutes. Ed Davidian seconded. Minutes were accepted.

**3. Center for Agriculture/UMass Extension Update**

• **FY14 Financial**

Pat Vittum reported Extension had a significant projected annual operating deficit that will cause some delay in hiring faculty and staff. She also noted the FY14 federal budget was to be level with FY12. FY13 had provided reduced funding of 7% due to sequester of funds.

- **Waltham Redevelopment**

Kathy Carroll noted the Bond Bill remains under discussion in the state legislature. She reported a Facebook page had been created to help advocate for the project as well as keep supporters informed. Kathy also stated she has been in contact with a community advocacy group working to develop the Fernald School property that abuts the UMass Waltham property.

- **Agricultural Learning Center**

Knowing of the board's interest in the Agricultural Learning Center, Pat introduced Wes Autio, Director of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. Wes affirmed SSA was responsible for the Center and noted he is hopeful the barn can be moved soon. Two small buildings are planned, a "farm hub" to provide for food washing and tractor storage and a "green industries hub" to include indoor practice and demonstration areas. A small "hoop barn" is also being erected. Half of the student farming initiative is also moving this year to the Center from South Deerfield. In closing he noted a master plan had been developed and will be sent to the board prior to the next meeting.

- **Faculty and Staff**

Pat Vittum reported the following searches under discussion or underway:

- Profession position to support nutrient management under development
- Extension Faculty (Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning) focused on community planning and design underway (spring, 2014 hire).
- Extension Faculty (Stockbridge School of Agriculture) focused on landscape horticulture fall, 2014 hire).

Pat also noted six Extension faculty, with responsibilities similar to today's speakers, had been hired over the past three years representing a shift to a new model of faculty and professional staff for Extension.

#### **4. Presentation by and Discussion with Amanda Kinchla, Extension Assistant Professor of Food Science**

Amanda Kinchla provided an overview of her research, teaching and extension responsibilities within the Dept. for Food Science. She noted her background was in value added food development and sees her faculty role as providing a bridge between industry and UMass.

#### **5. Presentation by and Discussion with Rick Harper, Extension Assistant Professor of Environmental Conservation**

Rick Harper also reviewed his research, teaching and extension responsibilities within the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. He noted his work collaborates with key constituencies within Massachusetts including Mass Arborists Assoc.; Mass Nursery and landscape Assoc.; Mass Dept of Environmental Conservation; and Mass Tree Wardens Assoc.

**6. A discussion on the future of Extension and the Center for Agriculture, with special attention to the search for a new Director, with Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy and Dean Steve Goodwin**

Chancellor Subbaswamy introduced himself stating he had learned a good deal about agriculture during his tenure at the University of Kentucky and that he appreciates working with a dean strongly engaged with agriculture. After introductions and a brief discussion of the upcoming search, questions followed.

Ed Bourgeois asked how big agriculture can dream in requesting UMass support? Chancellor Subbaswamy replied the extent of the UMass role will be driven primarily by the role of agriculture in Massachusetts economy.

Responding to Ed Davidian's offer to organize a Massachusetts farm tour, Chancellor Subbaswamy noted he had already visited the cranberry industry and appreciated the offer.

Ted Wales voiced strong support for the redevelopment of Waltham as an anchor for UMass in the eastern Massachusetts. In response, the chancellor voiced support for development and noted financial support within the environmental Bond Bill was needed.

Responding to a question from Mike Lueders regarding the critical skills required of a new director, the chancellor identified an understanding of integrated research and extension work; entrepreneurial skills; and effective leadership and communications skills.

Replying to a question from Jack Anglely, the chancellor noted there will be support for Extension, that the new director must be grounded with both Extension and administrative experience.

Jack Anglely noted Extension is broader than agriculture, encompassing 4-H, nutrition and environmental projects. The chancellor acknowledged the breadth of the work. Discussion followed, connecting these projects to issues significant to Massachusetts.

Marla Michel expressed her belief that entrepreneurial skills were critical to the future success of CAFÉ and Extension.

Steve Goodwin stated there was strong support from Chancellor Subbaswamy for the search. Responding to questions related to the position description and search, Steve explained a more detailed 4-6 page CAFÉ background document would be developed. He also noted a competitive salary would be offered and that additional input related to the position should be submitted directly to him via email.

**7. Ag Day at the State House**

A Brief discussion was held regarding whether BOPO should meet prior to Ag Day to prep for Ag Day. No decision was made. Follow up discussions to occur via email.

Proposed Board 2014 Meeting Dates: April 25<sup>th</sup>; July 25<sup>th</sup>; October 31<sup>st</sup>

R. Schrader, February 3, 2014