

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers**  
**UMass Collaborative Service Center, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury**  
**Tuesday, September 22, 2015**

**Meeting Notes**

**Members Present:** Patricia Vittum, Michael Lueders, Ed Davidian, Bill King, John Lee, Deb Phillips

**Members Absent:** Ted Wales, Lynn Griesemer, Jack Angley, Patricia Bigelow, Jerry Myers, Christy Foote-Smith, Gerard Kennedy (representing MDAR),

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

**Guests:** Robert Schrader, Joe Shoenfeld, William Miller, Linda Horn, Sandra Thomas

**1:00 Welcome (Davidian, standing in for Angley)**

**1:05 Approval of minutes from April 25, 2014**

Minutes approved without dissent

**1:10 Updates (Vittum)**

Board was briefed on the results of the search for new director.

- Process was protracted, but we were able retain the best candidate

Lueders - Expressed sincere appreciation for Vittum's service as interim director

Budget

- Funding levels for FY 16 will be the same as the previous year.

Davidian – expressed concern for the possibility of losing positions

Vittum – Did not think that would be a problem

Faculty & Staff Changes

- Retirements
  - Bob Schrader – will retire at the end of September 2015. He will be staying on part-time to assist in transition for new “Operations Manager” position
  - Ruth Hazzard – Vegetable Specialist, retired this past summer

- Bess Dicklow – Diagnostics Lab, retired this past winter
- New Hires
  - Linda Horn – Assistant Director of Massachusetts 4H Program
  - Amanda Bayer – Extension Faculty (Stockbridge School) in Nutrient and Water Management
  - Katie Campbell-Nelson – Extension Vegetable Specialist (replaces Ruth Hazzard)
  - Erica Rojas – Cranberry Scientist (replaces Frank Caruso)
  - Dwayne Bregger – Director of new Extension Energy Initiative
- Active Searches
  - Plant pathologist (position held previously by Bob Child's)
  - Nutrient management specialist - Soil Lab (replaces position vacated by John Spargo)
  - Vegetable educators (2)
  - Center Operations manager
  - Extension Faculty member (Coastal Studies) to be based in Gloucester, MA

Lee - Enquired as to status of Ron Propoky Endowment to hire A Fruit Entomologist (Faculty Member) in the Stockbridge school.

Vittum – Understands the position is moving forward but there is some confusion over if the precise status of the various funds committed. Vittum will clarify and follow up with board.

#### Recent Grants

Food Stuff

Scott Jackson \$184,000

Paul Catanzaro \$500,000

Crop Insurance and Risk Management

#### **1:40 Extension work in water resources, Christine Hatch – Extension Professor (Geosciences)**

- RiverSmart Communities – Extension funded project for ecologically restorative flood prevention and remediation (<http://extension.umass.edu/riversmart>)

Davidian – Concern expressed for the impact of new regulations on property owners, farmers, etc...

Bacon – Current regulations are based on a water quality concerns. This is an opportunity for existing regulations to be integrated with activities, data and policies that consider fluvial morphology and public safety.

#### **2:10 Update on the Center for Urban Sustainability in Waltham Schrader)**

- Current Waltham facility is “worn out”
- UMass Amherst is looking at options for redevelopment
- Consulting firm retained to study different possible design concepts

- Public funding has not yet been secured - Chancellor and Dean Goodwin will be leading advocacy efforts
- More info at <https://ag.umass.edu/facilities-farms/waltham-initiative>

## **2:40 Update on the Mass. Food System Plan development process (Shoenfeld)**

- Plan is nearly ready for publication and dissemination
  - Plan identifies significant need for Extension related functions (training, education and applied research) in many different areas
  - More information on the plan is online at <http://www.mafoodplan.org/>
  - For details on potential role for UMass Extension see supplemental documents
    - *How UMass Extension Can Help Realize a Stronger State Food System*
    - *Implementation Goal...*

Shoenfeld - Request the Board's assistance in reviewing and supporting the plan

Lee – There is too much in the plan; it needs to be pared down

Shoenfeld – Agreed it is too big and advocated (unsuccessfully) for a more simple and more tightly focused plan

Bacon – Suggested that a more streamlined approach to education and training is needed: a “front door model” or “doc in the box”

## **3:10 Update on the 4-H Youth Development Program (Horn)**

- Summer of Science program – Food Science, Movie making, 3-D Printing
- 2,600 youth in traditional (club) programs
- 3,500 youth in camps
- 1,000 adult volunteers
- An additional 11,000 youth in specialized educational programs
- Statewide community service activities - Food and family shelter assistance
- October 4th is national 4H kick-off
- Funding continues to be through grants, user fees and 4H Foundation

Bourgeois – Identified need for new opportunities for 4-H Youth in gardening education

Lee – Enquired about the status of 4-H membership?

Horn – Membership appears to be slowly increasing, particularly in Urban Areas.

King – Enquired about the nature of the new 4-H foundation marketing effort?

Horn – New banners and signs for visibility and recognition have been created. Most have been distributed to the counties

Lee – The last 4-H Foundation meeting gave a sense that membership was declining.

Davidian – Suggested outreach and partnership to farmers to allow 4H youth to use their farmland

**3:40 Questions and Discussion**

King – Requested a FY 16 budget for the Board to review

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:45P.M.

Submitted by William Miller, September 24, 2015