

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
UMass Campus Center, Amherst
Friday, November 9, 2012**

Members Present: Jack Angley, Ted Wales, Jerry Myers, Marla Michel, William King, Michael Lueders, Stephen Herbert, Richard Chandler (representing MDAR), Rena Prendergast,

Members Absent: Lynn Griesemer, Art Eve, Ed Davidian, John Lee, Patricia Bigelow, Christy Foote-Smith

Advisory Board Members Present: Ed Bourgeois

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, William Miller, Robert Schrader

1. Welcome - Jack Angley

Jack Angley called the meeting to order at 9:05

2. Approval of Minutes – Jack Angley

Michael Lueders moved to approve minutes, Marla Michel seconded. Minutes were approved for the June 22nd 2012 meeting.

3. Center for Agriculture Update

FY13 Budget: Stephen reported university funds were level. Federal funds are expected to be level. Sequestration of federal funds, if it occurs, is estimated to result in a 10% reduction in federal funds.

Contracts: SNAP Ed: New competitive process for FY13 contract has resulted in two rounds of layoff notice, temporarily rescinded, to 45 staff. To date two contract extensions have been received. An award decision is expected soon. Discussion focused on recent history of the contract process.

Faculty and Staff: Stephen reported on several searches underway.
Regional Educator located in Wareham – Green industry – UMass Extension
Extension Faculty – Landscape Materials – Stockbridge School of Agriculture
Nutrition Faculty – Obesity/youth related area – Department of Nutrition
Education Educator – Vegetable Systems – UMass Extension

Recent Hires:

Nick Brazee: Extension Educator – Plant Diagnostics – UMass Extension

Dan Harper: Extension Faculty – Arbor culture – Department of Environmental Conservation

Agricultural Learning Center: Stephen provided an update on development of the learning center, to be located on 45 acre field on northern boundary of campus. Moving an historic horse barn and Blaisdell House from the center of campus is planned, optimistically, for August, 2013, to provide a physical home for the Learning Center. Funding to move the buildings is to be provided primarily through donations. Discussion focused on other potential sources of funds (environmental bond, university). Significant discussion of farm design and educational purpose followed. There was strong support for the Center. The board felt support for the project should be communicated to Chancellor Subbaswamy. Jack Angley will develop an initial letter introducing the Board of Public Overseers to the chancellor.

4. Board of Overseers Membership Nomination - Bob Schrader

Bob Schrader provided an update on the nomination process for the five year term that begins in January, 2013. Bob reported that all seven organizations, except one, have responded positively. Three organizations have submitted nominations. Bob noted that Christy Foote-Smith had been nominated by Audubon, replacing Heidi Ricci and William King nominated by the 4-H State Advisory Council, replacing Eugene Tworek. Bob will ask organizations to submit nominations by December 1st. The University legislative liaison will be contacted to follow up on the appointment process with the governor's office.

5. Center for Agriculture Reorganization Plan – Stephen Herbert

Stephen utilized a six slide PowerPoint presentation to present an overview of a new structure for the Center for Agriculture and Extension within the Center. The new structure focuses on more efficiently supporting functions – research, applied research, extension outreach – through the Center. The functional structure, leadership structure and program development structure were discussed in depth. The mechanism for providing input to the program development process was an area of significant discussion.

6. 2013 Board of Public Overseers Meeting Dates

The following dates were set for 2013

- January 25th (snow date February 1st)
- April 26th
- July 26th
- October 25th

Materials Distributed:

1. Meeting Notes – June 22, 2012
2. Agricultural Learning Center at UMass Amherst
3. UMass Amherst Foundation Quarterly
4. Center for Agriculture Reorganization Plan (copy of PowerPoint presentation)

Meeting Adjourned 11:45 PM

R. Schrader

Associate Director

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