



UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
February 27, 2009
Meeting Notes

Present: Nancy Garrabrants, Jack Angley, Michael Lueders, Ted Wales, Scott Soares, Fred Dabney, Eugene Tworek, Bartley Morse, Lynn Griesemer (via conference call), Ed Bourgeois, Rena Prendergast, Art Eve, Ed Davidian

Guests: Bob Schrader, Mary Jane Bacon, Kathy Carroll, Robert Macleod

1. Welcome (9:00 AM)

Jack Angley opened the meeting and requested a motion to accept the notes of the January 9th meeting. A motion to accept was made by Ted Wales. Motion was seconded by Fred Dabney. Notes were accepted.

2. University Update

Bob Schrader reported the campus is focused on planning for a projected 10% reduction in funding. He noted Extension has been notified of a 20% FY10 reduction and further, that Continuing and Professional Education is being reduced 20%. University Outreach is developing a reorganization plan for submission to the provost for March 7th.

Fred Dabney asked why the Extension's budget has been reduced disproportionate to the campus. Significant discussion followed concerning how the university was complying with legislative earmark language in the budget.

Rena Prendergast moved that the chair draft a letter to Chancellor Holub requesting documentation of how legislative language is interpreted and documented by the university. The request should also ask that implications of diminished funding for meeting match requirements for federal funds be addressed. The Board agreed to send a letter to Chancellor Holub.

Significant discussion followed regarding how the university calculated its support for Extension. Bob presented a chart showing required match and sources of match for Extension funds. Discussion followed.

3. Extension Update

Nancy Garrabrants reported 4-H funding via the state legislature is being pursued. \$100,000 is being asked for via initiative. Nancy explained the funds would be reimbursed to the Commonwealth under the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. Scott Soares noted MDAR is supportive of the initiative. Significant discussion followed related to TANF requirements.

At national level, Nancy reported that Smith Lever section 3d IPM funds will continue to be competitive funds. For FY10 she noted UMass has received \$75,000. This compared to \$100,000 or formula funding in FY09.

Nancy noted FY08 project reports have been posted to the web and distributed a summary of each of the projects. She encouraged board members to review the reports at

<http://www.umassextension.org/index.php/about-extension/plans-reports/program-plans/program-plans-fy08>.

Nancy reported that fact sheets focusing on issues and programs, a total of twelve, are being produced for Ag Day and for discussion with our federal congressional delegation. A packet of the sheets was circulated for review. Copies of the materials will be sent to the board when complete. Bob Macleod suggested a list of legislators supportive of Extension be identified via updating of the list developed last year.

3. Membership and Bylaws Committee

Lynn Griesemer reported the committee had not met and there were no actions to report.

4. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Art Eve reported the committee has not met and thus no actions to report.

5. Budget and Advocacy Committee

Ted Wales began by noting the meeting MNLA had with Chancellor Holub. Fred Dabney provided a positive overview of the meeting noting the materials were well organized and reflected the size of the industries.

Jack Angley noted the upcoming meeting with Chancellor Holub needs to build upon points discussed with MNLA but not be redundant. Jack referred to key elements of such a presentation provided by Lynn Griesemer at the January 9th meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the key talking points for meeting with Chancellor Holub. Nancy Garrabrants distributed a proposed list of data to be gathered for presentation to the chancellor. Committee will include Jack Angley, Art Eve, Robert Macleod, Rena Prendergast and a member representing the green industry group. Jack will arrange meeting date and communicate with committee.

Nancy asked what plans were in place for Agriculture Day. Bob Macleod noted meetings were being arranged with several legislators to promote 4-H. Ed Davidian noted that Extension would be promoted within the Farm Bureau materials. In response to Nancy's question, several members noted they will be present at Ag Day as well as meeting with legislators. Scott Soares noted Ag Day will be a larger event this year.

5. Closing

Nancy Garrabrants noted next meeting is set for July 10th. Meeting Adjourned 11:55 AM

Tasks for Next Meeting:

- Develop draft of talking points
- Send letter to Chancellor Holub regarding documentation of funding

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
March 10, 2009