



UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
UMass Collaborative Service Center

Meeting Notes
July 10, 2009

Present: Nancy Garrabrants, Jack Angley, Michael Lueders, Ted Wales, Nathan L'Etoile, Eugene Tworek, Lynn Griesemer (via conference call), Ed Bourgeois, Ed Davidian
Guests: Bob Schrader, Mary Jane Bacon, Kathy Carroll, Robert Macleod

1. Welcome – Jack Angley

Jack called meeting to order at 9:05. Ed Davidian made a motion to accept the February 27th minutes. Ted Wales seconded. Motion passed.

2. Campus Update – Nancy Garrabrants

FY 10 budget – Nancy noted the Extension FY10 was reduced 10% (\$148,000). She stated the reduction was all made within Extension administration. Program funding was held level with last year. Nancy expressed her sense there will be further cutbacks in FY10 with greater challenges to be faced in FY11.

Nancy reviewed the FY10 budget materials in detail, noting two staff were laid off in Extension.

In response to a question from Jack Angley, Nancy explained funding decisions were made by the chancellor with input from the Amherst budget director.

Bob Macleod commented briefly on the committee's meeting with the chancellor, noting that he sensed "the chancellor is broke."

Following discussion of the campus and Extension budget situation, Mary Jane Bacon suggested a request be made to the Vice Chancellor for Research for a waiver of overhead on grants and contracts.

Extensive discussion followed related to the university budget, current changes at the university and opportunities to position Extension at UMass.

Michael Lueders suggested development of a business to supplement Extension funds needed to be a priority in order to adequately fund Extension.

Nathan L'Etoile suggested rethinking the extension operating models vis a vis the research focus of the university and difficulty of connecting campus with service. Eugene Tworek noted he felt 4-H is most vulnerable in the current budget situation.

Commenting via telephone, Lynn Griesemer observed the next two years will be financially difficult.

Outreach Task Force - Nancy reported on composition of the task force. She noted it had a broad charge - to make recommendations for the efficient delivery of outreach at UMass. Steve Goodwin, Dean of NRE is chair. Recommendations are to be made by August 15th.

After discussion of the task force and the relationship of the committee to Extension, Nathan L'Etoile made a motion that a letter be written to Chancellor Holub, copy Steve Goodwin and the task force, expressing the preference of the Board of Public Overseers.

After significant discussion the following motion was voted and accepted: The board, as representative associations of Extension constituencies, as authorized by state statute, would send a letter to the chancellor, copy to outreach task force, stating:

- Recognition of the challenges facing the university and need for current review process being undertaken by the Outreach Task Force
- Expressing that Extension as a whole is of greater value than the sum of its parts
- Expressing that Extension cannot perform its role serving any of its constituents without remaining whole

Mary Jane Bacon suggested a copy of enabling legislation be attached to the letter.

3. All Extension Conference – Ed Bourgeois

Ed reported he attended the conference and reiterated his sense that funding for UMass is a critical issue moving ahead. He noted the conference has a positive tone and was well attended.

4. Subcommittee reports

Membership & Bylaws - Lynn Griesemer
No report

Planning & Evaluation – Ed Bourgeois

Ed reported the FY08 accomplishment report was a good start but needed improvement. He suggested a more succinct presentation of accomplishments was needed. He also felt his review would benefit from more discussion of potential uses (for advocacy) of the document.

Budget & Advocacy – Jack Angley

Jack noted there had been much discussion of the budget situation already at the meeting. Ed Davidian made a motion to ask Nancy to negotiate, with university officials, means of reducing the impact of overhead charges for Extension in the areas of fees, contracts and gifts. The motion passed.

5. Action Steps for Next Meeting - September 11, 2009

- A. Letter to Chancellor Holub related to Outreach Task force deliberations
- B. Inquiry and response on reducing university overhead costs

Meeting Adjourned at 12:02

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
July 23, 2009