



**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
UMass Collaborative Service Center**

**Meeting Notes
September 11, 2009**

Present

Members: Nancy Garrabrants, Michael Lueders, Jack Angley, Ted Wales, Eugene Tworek, Ed Bourgeois. Lynn Griesemer, Art Eve, Rena Lobosco

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, Robert Schrader, Bob Luczai

1. Welcome – Jack Angley

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:15. Jack asked for acceptance of July meeting notes. Michael Lueders requested an edit to note his comment on “spinning off Extension” was not accurate and was meant to focus on moving Extension towards financial self sufficiency. The amendment and notes were accepted.

2. Campus Update – Nancy Garrabrants

Outreach Task Force

Nancy reported that she met with Steve Goodwin, Dean of the new College of Natural Sciences. She expects Extension will be within the college and specifically within the Center for Agriculture. Steve Herbert is Associate Dean and will probably direct the center. Nancy expects the Nutrition Education Program will continue to be located within the Nutrition Department.

Significant discussion followed. Overall, Nancy expressed optimism for the move and the transition to this new college.

Rena Lobosco suggested there was a value in focusing today’s meeting on how best to prepare for FY11 and expected budget reductions. Conversation followed related to opportunities for revenue generation through fees and grants. There was general agreement on the value of developing a business plan

3. Letter to Chancellor Holub Follow-up – Jack Angley

Jack reviewed his letter to Chancellor Holub regarding the location of Extension and his subsequent reply. The reply was cordial and referenced work of the Outreach Task Force.

4. Subcommittee reports

Membership & Bylaws - Lynn Griesemer

No report

Planning & Evaluation – Ed Bourgeois

Ed reported he has been in discussion with Bill Miller on program evaluation. He noted the conversation was positive and work this fall will focus on continuing to understand the planning procedures for Extension. Ed also reported on a meeting he had with Steve Goodwin which he reported was very positive.

Budget & Advocacy – Ted Wales

Ted Wales reported board members met legislators at both Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the state house and as part of a Green Industry Alliance event.

Nancy Garrabrants noted the committees and goals were established one year ago through the work with consultant Jay Vogt. She suggested this was a good time to review the operation of the committees and suggested the following approaches be discussed:

- have subcommittees meet for a period of time concurrently at each meeting
- have committees meet outside of quarterly board meetings
- have committee discussion with full board during each meeting

The Board agreed to a format of having the committees meet for 30 minutes, at 9AM, prior to each meeting. This meeting is not meant to preclude committee work that occurs between meetings but rather to establish an ongoing opportunity for face to face meetings.

Conversation shifted to membership on the board. The absence of Audubon membership was noted. Recruiting Audubon member was identified as a priority. The Board agreed to contact Audubon through Scott Jackson, Extension NREC Program Director.

5. Future Goals for the Board – Nancy Garrabrants

Art Eve suggested the value of Extension developing an entrepreneurial plan/agenda for Extension to bring forward at the next meeting. Michael Lueders supported the idea.

Michael Lueders noted the value of having program directors attend Board meetings. Discussion followed of how to best stay abreast of program work. Nancy will ask program directors when the best date would be for each to attend.

Ed Bourgeois suggested Steve Goodwin be invited to a future meeting. Art Eve suggested invitation be sent following further information on the transition of Extension and discussion at next Board meeting.

6. Meeting Dates for 2010

Agreed to the following meeting dates in 2010:

January 29th (February 5th snow date)

April 2nd

June 18th

October 15th

7. Action Steps for Next Meeting

- Extension will develop and bring to the Board an “entrepreneurial plan” for Extension
- Extension will take steps to review and initiate appointments to vacant seats on the Board

The next meeting is December 11th, 2009

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
September 11, 2009