



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

### Meeting Notes December 11, 2009

#### Present

**Members:** Nancy Garrabrants, Michael Lueders, Jack Angley, Ted Wales, Ed Bourgeois. Lynn Griesemer, Art Eve, Ed Davidian,

**Guests:** Mary Jane Bacon, Robert Schrader, Bob Macleod, Nathan L'Etoile, Stephen Herbert, Stephen Goodwin, Bob Luczai

#### 1. **Welcome** – Jack Angley

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Jack asked for acceptance of September meeting notes. Ted Wales requested an edit to note that members of the budget and advocacy committee met with legislators at both Massachusetts Agriculture Day and the Green Industry Alliance event at the statehouse. Ted recommended acceptance of the notes. Seconded by Art Eve. The amendment and notes were accepted.

#### 2. **Campus Update** – Nancy Garrabrants

Nancy reported the move to the College of Natural Sciences (CNS), Center for Agriculture (CFA), had occurred. She noted the beginning of new governance via a CFA governing committee.

Nancy reported a number of accomplishments within Extension:

- Received \$800,000 in grants in September, October, November – ethnic vegetables; cranberries; 4-H military kids; food stamp nutrition education were noted as examples
- FY09 project reports and FY10 plans are nearly done and will be posted to the web
- Agriculture curriculum committee has been established within CNS and is looking at key issues
- Beginning to develop materials for Massachusetts Agriculture Day
- Committees within Extension are looking at uses of technology:

- Social media
- Improved On-line registration for events
- Improved online platform for selling products and services

In closing she noted staff expect tough fiscal year and are beginning to explore opportunities for funding through fees and grants.

### **3. Board Membership**

Lynn noted Fred Dabney and Bartley Morse have resigned. Lynn also noted the Chancellor's representative has been vacant for one year and the Audubon seat has also been vacant for several years.

Bob Macleod noted Jerry Meyers has indicated an interest in representing the 4-H Foundation.

Ed Davidian noted each organization must submit three names for each appointment.

Following discussion, the board agreed all names should be submitted as a packet. Nancy will coordinate receiving all nominations by the end of January.

### **4. College of Natural Sciences Discussion: Stephen Goodwin and Stephen Herbert**

#### **Extension Transition and Center for Agriculture**

Steve Goodwin recognized the good work of the board and progress the board has made in communications over the past several years.

Speaking of the move of Extension to the College of Natural Sciences, Steve noted he supported the move, noting this ties extension to teaching and research.

Responding to a question from Ed Bourgeois, Steve explained the transition of Extension from Outreach to CNS. He noted the resignation of Vice Provost Sharon Fross led to appointment of an Outreach Task force, which subsequently led to the recommendation to reassign Outreach units, including Extension.

Steve noted Extension will be part of the Center for Agriculture (CFA), which includes the Massachusetts Experiment Station. He noted he views the CFA as representing a broad umbrella representing the land grant mission – including 4-H, nutrition and environmental issues.

Within the new CNS, he noted the appointment of four curriculum committees within the college – one is agricultural sciences. Steve expects one result will be significant changes in the agricultural curriculum.

Steve spoke of his interest in establishing an agricultural event at UMass in the Fall, 2010

Lynn suggested the economic impact report produced several years ago should be updated prior to the governor's election in the Fall, 2010.

Responding to a question from Lynn Griesemer regarding the fit of Extension in the CFA, Steve stated Extension will maintain its identity as a unit within the CFA.

Responding to a question from Michael Lueders regarding the nature and structure of the CFA, Steve Herbert noted the role of the CFA is primarily to integrate research and extension work related to the land grant mission. CFA also manages two university farms – Turf, Animal and Agronomy (S Deerfield) & Equine (Hadley).

### **Budget Situation**

Turning to the budget, Steve Goodwin noted the budget picture is bleak. The FY10 Amherst budget, which was reduced from FY09, is \$221 million. FY10 budget is projected at \$171 million. Impact of reduction has been cushioned by federal stimulus funds in FY09 and FY10. Expected shortfall is \$47 million. Projected deficit for FY12 is \$57 million.

University initiatives for fund raising include: increased on line courses; increased out of state students (who pay higher tuition); increased development income; fifth year professional master's degree programs; and increased summer courses.

Steve noted this will be a difficult year and he will consult with the board as the budget moves forward.

### **Discussion**

**Waltham facility:** Responding to a question from Ted Wales as to the future of Waltham, Steve noted his commitment to utilizing the facility to support stakeholders and UMass. A meeting is scheduled for mid January with stakeholders. Steve invited board members to contact him if interested in participating.

**Outreach Costs and Services:** Responding to a question from Lynn Griesemer regarding costs associated with Outreach services (marketing, communications, technology), Steve noted approximately two positions will be retained within the area of communications and technology. He estimated there would be a substantial reduction in "overhead" costs for Extension.

## **5. Governor's Listening Session**

Nathan L'Etoile reported the governor is sponsoring listening sessions throughout the state related to executive agency structure and function. Ted Wales made a motion that the board submit to the secretary of EOEEA, a letter recommending "maintenance of an identifiable Department of Agriculture within the secretariat." The letter to include documentation of support MDAR has provided to the board. The motion passed with two abstentions.

## **6. Ag Day at the State House**

Ed Davidian led discussion of the message and logistics for Ag day. Board agreed to focus the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting on honing the message and logistics for the day.

## **7. Action Steps for Next Meeting**

- Prep for Ag Day: Calendar for contacts to be developed
- Options for Waltham: Follow-up from January meeting at Waltham
- Board nominations from respective organizations: Farm Bureau; Audubon; 4-H Foundation; 4-H State Advisory Committee
- Follow-up on UMass Ag event: Ed Bourgeois will represent board

The next meeting is January 29<sup>th</sup>, Snow date is February 5th

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Robert Schrader  
Associate Director  
December 11, 2009