

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

**Meeting notes
June 17, 2011**

Present

Members: Ed Bourgeois, Jack Angley, Art Eve, Ted Wales, Rena Prendergast, Heidi Ricci, Mike Leuders, Eugene Tworek, Jerry Myers, Ted Wales

Guests: Stephen Herbert, Robert Schrader, Jean Anliker, Mary Jane Bacon, Joseph Shoenfeld, Robert Macleod, William Miller

1. Welcome – Jack Angley

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:05.

2. Approval of March 18th, 2011 Meeting Notes – Jack Angley

Michael Leuders made a motion to accept the notes. Motion was seconded by Stephen Herbert. Notes were approved unanimously.

3. Center of Agriculture Update – Stephen Herbert

Stephen noted his appointment as director by Dean Steven Goodwin. Stephen expects this will lead to efficiencies in linking research and extension. Nancy Garrabrants, Bob Schrader and Joe Shoenfeld are associate directors. Nancy will focus on special projects, particularly 4-H & NEP; Bob on operations; Joe on communications and strategic planning.

The evolution of Stockbridge School to an academic department continues with Stockbridge being expanded to a program that will offer Associate, Bachelor and Graduate degrees. Stephen noted he sees this proposal as very positive for agriculture at UMass.

- Rena Prendergast asked about the scope of responsibilities for Nancy, particularly in relation to the Nutrition Education Program. Stephen replied the evolution of this work is ongoing and that Nancy will not serve as program leader. A special focus of her work will be on Springfield and statewide initiatives with 4-H and Nutrition.

- Michael Leuders asked how the integration of leadership will impact engagement with the green industries. Stephen replied he perceives there will be no negative effect, that he sees greater access to faculty expertise being provided through the integration.
- Joe Shoenfeld noted the Center will be engaging in a strategic planning process and he will look to the board to participate. He also noted there are expected efficiencies to be gained through integration of administrative functions within the Center.
- Jerry Myers suggested a short communications piece be developed to explain and position the transition for use with Extension constituencies.

4. Budget Update – Bob Schrader and Stephen Herbert

- State FY 12 Budget

Stephen reported the university has increased fees 7.5% for the FY12 academic year. Although the budget is not yet set for Extension and other university units, level funding is expected.

- Federal FY12

Bob Schrader reported the President's budget sets a 5% decrease, while the House Appropriations Committee has set a 12% decrease in Smith Lever funds. Similar reductions are projected for Agricultural Research Station funds. Extension is preparing to manage within a lower projected budget.

Discussion followed regarding opportunities to increase funding through fees, gifts and public appropriation.

5. Nutrition Education Program Report – Jean Anliker

Jean provide an extensive overview of the NEP program

- Core Programs
 - Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP): Federal Smith Lever 3d funds focused on low income audiences. EFNEP provides a series of lessons (full curriculum) to participants. Budget is approximately \$1 million annually. EFNEP educational model is to hire staff from the community.
 - Family Nutrition Program (FNP): Also focused on low income audiences with funding from Mass Department of Transitional Assistance. Similar to EFNEP but allows a less intensive educational contact with food stamp eligible audiences. The program is in transition due to recent changes in federal legislation. FY11 budget was approved for \$3.1 million but has been subsequently reduced to \$2.75 million. FY12 funding is projected at \$2.6 million. Funds will be fully competitive within state in FY13.
 - Food safety programs are incorporated within FNP and EFNEP, however the faculty food safety position is currently vacant.
 - NEP has seven offices located in major cities across the state.
 - Programs focus on schools, farmers markets and many community facilities.

- A variety of innovative curriculum are used to reach audiences.
- **Transitional Steps**
 - Increasing use of social media.
 - More direct outreach to food stamp recipients.
 - More competition for funding.

6. Relationship of Center for Agriculture to Extension and BOPO – Stephen Herbert

Center for Agriculture Advisory Board is advisory to the center, primarily charged with identifying new program ideas for the Center for Agriculture. Board is comprised of 17 members - agencies, farmers, internal Center leadership, and three representatives from BOPO.

Conversation shifted to the importance of Waltham as an outreach center for Extension in eastern Massachusetts. Joe provided an update of ongoing work to gather community input on the value of Waltham. There was strong support for developing Waltham as a university asset.

Responding to a question from Jack Angley regarding longer term goals for the Center for Agriculture, Stephen focused on the need to diversify and increase the funding base for the Center.

Responding to a question from Ed Bourgeois regarding his new role in program assessment, Bill Miller noted he will be responsible for developing program plans and reports, as well as placing an increased emphasis on helping staff evaluate the impacts of specific programs. He noted much of this direction will be provided through a strategic planning process that is to be developed.

7. Board Member Interests and Questions

Heidi Ricci briefly described an Audubon initiative to participate in a planning effort among 37 towns in the Metrowest area.

Art Eve offered a motion supporting the reorganization of Extension and to commend the Dean and the Center for Agriculture for this initiative. The motion was supported by the Board.

Joe Shoenfeld noted he will now serve as contact person for Board members. He also agreed to keep the Board apprised of Center initiatives via email in the coming months.

Meeting Adjourned 11:55 A.M

Next meeting date

November 18

Robert Schrader
Associate Director
June 17, 2011

