

**UMass Extension Board of Public Overseers
UMass Collaborative Service Center, 333 South Street, Shrewsbury
Friday, March 23, 2012**

Members Present:

Lynn Griesemer (via telephone), Ted Wales, Marla Michel, Art Eve, Ed Davidian, Stephen Herbert,

Members Absent: Jack Angley, Rena Prendergast, Mike Leuders, Scott Soares, Patricia Bigelow

Advisory Board Members Present: Ed Bourgeois

Guests: Mary Jane Bacon, Joe Shoenfeld, Eugene Tworek, Heidi Ricci, John Lee, Bob Macleod,

1. Welcome – Ed Davidian

Meeting called to order at 9:05

2. Discussion of Minutes; Ed Davidian

Lacking a quorum the minutes could not be voted upon. Ed asked if there were any comments or corrections related to the minutes from either January 27th, 2012 or November 18th, 2011. No corrections were identified.

3. Status of Center for Agriculture Reorganization Process: Joe Shoenfeld

Joe Shoenfeld reviewed the planning process to date. Meetings have been held with four academic departments as well as a half day planning session with Extension and Center staff. Input is being compiled and will be reviewed by the sixteen member Center Guidance Group. A new draft model for developing and managing extension and research projects will be developed by the end of spring semester. The organizational model will hopefully be presented at June BOPO meeting.

Responding to a question from Ed Bourgeois, Stephen Herbert noted the principal changes will more strongly integrate research and extension work where appropriate.

Discussion moved to whether the Center for Agriculture should be representing all agricultural activities (primarily via its website) at the university as opposed to representing only programs of the Center. A vigorous discussion of the appropriate scope of the Center's role followed.

4. Open Meeting Law Revised Procedures: Bob Schrader

Bob Schrader reviewed the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. Comparing elements of the law with BOPO operations (handout #1), the board discussed and agreed to implement the following changes in operations.

- a. "Certification of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials" was requested from each member.
- b. Meeting notices, including the agenda, will be posted on the Attorney General's website as well as UMass.
- c. Bob Schrader will research current university policy related to the "remote participation" of members. He will also affirm if the individual may participate and vote via remote participation.
- d. Meeting Minutes will have added the following elements: inclusion of roll call vote numbers; members absent and a listing of all materials distributed at the meeting.

5. Board of Overseers Membership: Bob Schrader

Bob Schrader distributed an updated matrix of BOPO members and the status of persons representing identified organizations (handout #5). He noted that seven of the eleven organizational seats have appointments through January 6, 2013 and that four representatives have not been formally appointed by Governor Patrick. After discussion, BOPO agreed, given the lengthy nature of the appointment process, to initiate the nomination and appointment process for terms starting January 7, 2012. Bob Schrader will take responsibility for initiating contact with organizational leaders to solicit nominations to the BOPO.

6. New Extension Faculty Members and Positions and Newly Involved Academic Departments: Joe Shoenfeld

Joe Shoenfeld presented an overview of Extension Faculty positions (handout #8). This included four existing Extension Faculty positions; four professional staff recently transferred to Extension Faculty; four new Extension Faculty hires and two Extension Faculty positions being searched. Discussion followed related to the role of these faculty and access to faculty by stakeholders.

7. Plans for Agricultural Day at the Statehouse, April 3: Stephen Herbert

Stephen reported the Center for Agriculture will have a display outside the Great Hall. Stephen volunteered that five UMass staff will be present and can assist with legislative visits as requested. Bob Macleod noted the 4-H Foundation was also arranging a number of legislative visits. Joe Shoenfeld noted the High Impact document (handout #9) would be distributed.

8. Report on CARET (Council on Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching) Meetings in Washington: Stephen Herbert

CARET meets annually in Washington DC for the purpose of advocating for resources for agricultural extension, research and teaching at land grant universities. Massachusetts CARET representative Ken Nicwicz and Stephen Herbert visited with members of the state congressional delegation. Stephen noted he had an excellent conversation with Congressman McGovern.

9. News Update: Stephen Herbert

Stephen briefly reported on an initiative to support urban agriculture through use of growing containers. He also reported on a research project to grow lettuce in shipping containers using LED lights.

Materials Distributed:

1. Open Meeting Law Summary
2. Certificate of Receipt of Open Meeting Law
3. Open Meeting Law Guide
4. Open Meeting Law, G.L.c. 30A, section 18-25
5. BOPO: Membership Summary and Nomination Process
6. BOPO Meeting Notes: November 18, 2011
7. BOPO Meeting Notes: January 27, 2012
8. CFA: Introducing New Faculty, Spring, 2012
9. High Impact: Research and Extension Education
10. Cultivating Agricultural Education: From Mass. Aggie to University of Massachusetts, 1863-1947

Future 2012 Meetings:

June 22, 2012

November 9, 2012

Meeting Adjourned 11:25

R. Schrader

Associate Director

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