

Greenhouse Committee Meeting minutes, February 17, 2015

Present: Alan Christensen, Amy Hilske, Stephen Wegulo, Hector Santiago, Ed Cahoon, Lance Meinke, Anne Streich, Keenan Amundsen. Absent: Scott Sattler, Aaron Lorenz, Matt Anderson

The minutes from the meeting on Jan 20, 2015 were approved (moved by Wegulo, second by Amundsen).

Updates and Announcements:

Amy reported that the new Greenhouse managers were in place and the job for Assistant Manager of the Beadle Greenhouse would be posted soon. The new Research Technician for the East Campus Greenhouses has also started.

An estimate of \$13K was received for removing the old growth chambers in AGH. Once they are removed and the floor is inspected she will know more about what is required in a replacement. The new growth chambers will probably be ordered as a package to simplify the bidding process and get better pricing.

Amy also reported that the Lemnatech was on site in the NIC Greenhouse. The greenhouse is on track for a March 31 opening and a tour of the phenotyping facility may be possible in April. They are still waiting for some of the glass for the NIC greenhouses.

The renovations of houses A and E has stalled somewhat because bench parts are still not here.

Facilities has informed Amy that there is extra money in their budget that can be used to upgrade the lights in 2 Plant Path greenhouses and 2 AGH greenhouses to LEDs.

Old Business:

Facilities will continue to inspect and upgrade the heating systems for the East campus greenhouses, with focus on the valves and adding sensors. New control panels should be in place by the end of the year.

Learning Environment Subcommittee:

Anne and Keenan reported that there are currently 2 poly and 1 glass house used for teaching. They reported the results from their survey. Immediate needs are more space in the main greenhouse, better quality of space including better lights (LEDs). Headhouse space is also limited. The subcommittee suggested that we should have a teaching facility that we can showcase to the public, which would help recruitment, extension and outreach activities. The subcommittee suggested visiting new teaching greenhouse facilities (such as at North Dakota State University and the University of Minnesota) and will work with Hector Santiago to deal with the costs of such visits. The committee agreed that this would be a very useful activity.

New Business:

Additional Infrastructure Needs:

There was a discussion of the needs brought up by the various units. Important needs were new growth chambers as space permits, additional renovations to AGH 2, 3, 4 and Plant Path, such as has been done to houses A & E. These could include replacing lights, upgrading temperature controls, replacing cooling pads and resealing the glass. There is also a need for more Arabidopsis growth space for Beadle. Walk-in growth chambers are also needed, and the long-term future of the Entomology space was discussed.

Committee members will pass on the feedback from their units to Amy, who will collate them and begin to prioritize and estimate costs.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan C. Christensen, chair