

Greenhouse Committee meeting minutes, July 28, 2014

1. An update on the progress on the NIC greenhouses was provided by David Jackson. Occupancy is likely in the two completed greenhouses by Feb-Mar 2015.

2. Amy Hilske described the new tier structure for greenhouse fees that has been developed with accounting. An inventory of what spaces are available on campus and which tier they would fit in is still in progress. Getting some areas up to minimal service is a goal.

Tier 1: All air-conditioned greenhouses & those swamp-cooled greenhouses with high demand/desirability (Beadle for example); full service & minimal service in these facilities are both included in this tier.

Tier 2: Swamp-cooled greenhouses, full service.

Tier 3: Swamp-cooled greenhouses, minimal service.

Tier 4: Hoop greenhouses, minimal service.

Growth Chambers – Full Service.

Growth Chambers – Minimal Service.

Hourly Services - \$11/hour.

So far the growth chambers are not broken down into reach-in vs. walk-in chambers. Amy thinks it should be. She will work on this further and report back to the committee.

3. User forum, August 11th. Amy will be there, and as many members of the committee who can attend should try to attend. At that point, we should plan for a presentation of the tier levels, what service levels mean, and a probable timetable of service availability as staffing is added.

4. Long term vision. This will be a continuing agenda item for the committee. Items that were mentioned in the meeting include increasing the amount of high-quality space, increasing space for research on human pathogens (one possibility mentioned would be space that will be vacated by Food Science), improving the teaching space, possibly by relocation, and dedicated space for transgenic work on East Campus.

5. Short-term steps.

a. Amy will draft a description of proposed minimal service. This will circulate among the committee for edits, in order to allow ARD to present a goal for what minimal service will mean at the user forum on August 11th. Some discussion ensued about the potential consequences of this change. It will also be important for Amy to collect feedback during the event, and to present the description of minimal service as a work still in progress and welcoming input from users and potential users.

b. Space allocation policies and transition. Allocation policies should be rational and as transparent as possible, and it is a given that the primary goal of this committee, the ARD, and the GH Director is to enable the research, teaching and extension missions of the university to proceed in as

efficient and cost-effective a way as possible. Written policies may need to be somewhat generic, to allow the GH Director and Managers flexibility. However there should be a set of principles on which allocation will be based. A subcommittee was appointed to draft such a set of principles, consisting of Aaron Lorenz, chair, Ed Cahoon, Stephen Wegulo and Scott Sattler. They will work with Amy to draft the principles by the next committee meeting, sometime in mid-August. An important future goal will be to have a web-accessible schedule of greenhouse use and future use, mapped by house and chamber. Bringing some rationality into the naming of the greenhouse facilities will also be a goal. This will help the GH Director allocate space, help the GH committee monitor use, and help users understand allocation decisions by the GH staff.

6. Amy will continue to work on a staffing plan to achieve minimal service levels in all the facilities, and will report to us periodically. She will also start to assemble a list of infrastructure and maintenance priorities.

7. Communication with end-users. This was not discussed at length, but there was general agreement that we will set policies and Amy will implement them with the help of the GH managers, without the committee micromanaging. While recognizing that changes may sometimes be needed, we should support Amy and her decisions until a policy change is made.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan C. Christensen, chair