

Greenhouse Committee Meeting minutes, August 18, 2014

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

The minutes from the meeting on July 28, 2014 were approved.

David Jackson provided an update on NIC.

Several members provided reports on the user forum that was held on August 11. Users expressed concern about upcoming changes.

Amy distributed a list of the descriptions of the two service levels. Several suggestions were made: non-standard supplies could be negotiated or provided by users, non-standard supplies (soil mixes, pots, etc.) that are used at a reasonable frequency should be added to the list of supplies provided for minimal service, at the discretion of the GH Director and Managers.

The subcommittee on Space Allocation policies and transitions submitted their report and discussion followed. Discussion ensued, and the subcommittee (Aaron, Ed, Stephen and Scott) will take these into account in revising their proposed policies. Discussion on who would pay user fees for student groups such as the Horticulture Club followed. It was seen as unreasonable to bill them the full rates, but a useful part of their education experience to understand costs. A motion was made and seconded that "Student clubs shall submit a letter to the Greenhouse Director annually, requesting space." The expectation of the committee was that the user fees would be made known to the clubs, but would be paid by departments or colleges in negotiation with the student clubs. The motion passed unanimously.

Staffing Plan: Hiring two GH managers and adding lower level staffing to accomplish minimum service in all areas are the priorities. Amy is working on this.

Infrastructure and maintenance priorities: Two growth chambers in AHG are not functional and could be replaced. Plant Path GH also has growth chamber issues. Donn Ladd will research new growth chambers and report to Amy. Amy will be getting feedback from the CITB group (Consortium for Integrated Translational Biology).

Amy will send out a user survey in the near future to estimate future needs and the balance between service levels.

Amy will be working with Kathy Ellis on the rate calculations and structure and will distribute them to the committee in the near future. These fees will be for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. This is relatively urgent because billing has not been done yet, and needs to be done before grant fiscal years end, etc. There may need to be a special meeting of the GH committee to discuss and approve rates.

David Jackson noted that there might be funds available to upgrade teaching greenhouse facilities. A subcommittee was appointed (Anne and Keenan) to gather information from faculty involved in greenhouse teaching and describe a vision of a Greenhouse Learning Environment to the full committee. We will then need to describe a plan to accomplish that vision, in steps if necessary.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan C. Christensen, chair