

Greenhouse Committee Meeting minutes, September 22, 2014

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

The minutes from the meeting on August 18, 2014 were amended and approved.

The minutes from the meeting on September 4, 2014 were approved.

Updates and Announcements:

Due to a scheduling conflict, Deb Lawrence will be surveying the members to reschedule the October, November and December meetings.

Amy Hilske announced that the rates have been approved and that bills for July and August will go out very soon, with September's to follow before the 30th. After that, the monthly cycle will be up and running. The Greenhouse Managers will double-check the first set of bills that go out to make sure the system worked correctly. An explanatory text will accompany the first bills to explain the differences between the current system and the previous system.

Amy also announced that the 2 Greenhouse manager positions should be approved by HR in the near future and a search will start. New student workers have been hired to help make the transition to the service levels.

Amy reported that Greenhouse signage to clarify which spaces belong to which tier, and defining minimal service and full service are up in Beadle and will be up soon on East Campus.

Amy showed a draft of the space request form for discussion. The committee recommended that there be an automatic reply from the system to the PI to ensure that they know what their students are doing, and that they know the request system is working to record their requests. There should be a transition period for existing projects so users do not worry about losing space they are currently using. Amy will send emails to the PI's she is aware use the Greenhouses once the system is online.

David reported that due to changes in finishes the schedule for occupancy of the NIC greenhouses is probably going to be May, and that the Lemnatech installation will also probably be in May.

The Space Allocation subcommittee presented their revised draft policies for discussion. The subcommittee will revise again in light of the discussion, and then the policy statement will be circulated to the full committee. It is hoped that it can be approved by an email ballot before the next meeting, so that it can be effective at approximately the same time as the new user fees.

The Learning Environment subcommittee has assembled a group of faculty to gather input on greenhouse teaching space and will report back in the future.

Amy presented requests for Growth Chamber purchases based on the Greenhouse Managers' discussion of replacement needs and future needs. For Beadle they request 2 new reach-in (2-3 shelf) growth chambers for Beadle (replacements for one that is broken and one that is in poor condition. For Plant Pathology they request 2 new reach-in (2-3 shelf) growth chambers and 2 (1-shelf) growth chambers for larger plants, based on expected future needs. For Agronomy & Horticulture they request 3 Walk-in growth chambers to replace 2 non-functional chambers that will need to be removed. The committee

discussed the request. A motion was made and seconded that the Greenhouse Committee recommend these Growth Chamber purchases; it passed unanimously.

Amy also described the results of the recent user survey. The most commonly mentioned needs were better pest control, better communication from staff, better plant quality and better lighting. Also mentioned was a need for more Growth Chamber space. Amy will remove the names of the respondents and identifying information from the survey results and distribute to the committee for their information. This information should probably not be public at this time.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan C. Christensen, chair