

Greenhouse Committee Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2016

The meeting started at 1 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2015 Meeting

Matt Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting; Amy Hilske seconded. The minutes were approved.

Updates and Announcements

Anne Streich indicated a committee meeting may need to be called in the next 3-4 weeks to address a question by a faculty member. More information will be presented to the group once Anne has additional information.

Amy said Troy Pabst (Innovation Campus Greenhouse Manager) is back from leave which will free up time for her to focus on other tasks. Amy provided an update on the expansion of the Lemnatech facility at Innovation Campus. She said the tunnel is not done, but the physical expansion is complete. However, the software is down and continues to fail and therefore no new projects can start. Vandalism/break-ins at the Innovation Campus and East Campus greenhouse complexes was discussed briefly. Greenhouse 4 on East Campus was broken into during the summer of 2015 with the intention of stealing computers; fencing off the greenhouses was considered after the break-in.

Old Business:

Learning Environment Subcommittee:

Anne Streich presented a proposed budget for the plant growth instructional laboratory and support facility to be built in three phases. Phase 1 – teaching greenhouses and dirty space – is estimated to cost \$6,511,050 to \$7,722,750. Phase 2 – classrooms/lab – is estimated to cost \$1,605,100 to 1,832,250. Phase 3 – conservatory – is estimated to cost \$4,414,900 to \$4,889,500. The timeline for beginning the project is not set. The next step is: Hector Santiago will present the budget estimates to the Deans.

New Business:

Assessment of the condition of the greenhouse complex facilities:

Amy Hilske said UNL has contracted with an outside firm to assess the condition of the East Campus greenhouse complex facilities to determine whether new greenhouses should be built or the existing greenhouses should be renovated. Anne Streich suggested that the proposed plant growth instructional laboratory and support facility should be included in this assessment. It was agreed that necessary improvements such as installation of LED lights should proceed during the assessment period. Amy said greenhouses M and N have safety issues. Hector said the assessment of greenhouses was proposed in part because of these safety issues. Matt Anderson asked what type of space is needed most in the greenhouses. Amy said the greatest demand is for air conditioned rooms. The logistics of building new greenhouses and their location was discussed. Keenan Amundsen and Stephen Wegulo expressed concern about what would happen to ongoing research during the building or renovation process. Amy said the assessment team will begin work soon, possibly in approximately two weeks. Amy will assess the overall cost of running greenhouses which will aid in determining rates charged to users.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.