

Greenhouse Committee Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2015

The meeting started at 10 a.m.

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

Approval of Minutes of 22 September Meeting

Alan Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting; Lance Meinke seconded. The minutes were approved.

Updates and Announcements

Learning Environment Subcommittee:

Anne Streich presented an update from the Learning Environment Subcommittee. She presented a sketch of the proposed plant growth instructional laboratory and support facility, with a total area of 27,000 sq. ft. After consultation with UNL Facilities Director Barry Schull, Associate Professor of Practice Stacy Adams, and members of the IANR administration, the sketch was constructed and it was proposed that the plant growth instructional laboratory and support facility be built in the northwest corner of North 39th Street and Center Street. The estimated cost is \$13.8-16.4 million. Alan Christensen said he understood the most feasible approach to successfully build the plant growth instructional laboratory and support facility was to do it in phases. Hector Santiago said at this time there is no proposed start date for the project as it is still a proposal and no funds have been raised so far.

Old Business:

Space Request Form:

Amy Hilske said that she was still waiting to hear from the Ohio State University software programming team that will assist with updating the space request form.

New Business:

Procedures for handling GMO plants in greenhouses:

The procedures for handling GMO plants in greenhouses were discussed. Hector Santiago said the Biotechnology Quality Management System (BQMS) program which he leads provides GMO seed to the researcher and after that they have no further control over what the researcher does. Amy Hilske will follow up with Biosafety Officer Matt Anderson and the Institutional Biosafety Committee to develop protocols for handling GMO plants in greenhouses, including disposal procedures.

Greenhouse infrastructure improvements:

Amy Hilske updated the committee on Agronomy and Horticulture Greenhouse 2 which has air conditioning but does not cool sufficiently. She said she has met with Assistant Vice Chancellor for Facilities Jimmy Jackson to discuss the possibility of repairing this greenhouse. However, Facilities has decided not to repair due to the cost involved. Consultations with members of UNL administration are ongoing on what to do about the repairs. Amy suggested the head houses could be maintained and new greenhouses built.

Greenhouse infrastructure improvements:

On November 16, 2015, Amy Hilske emailed a growth chamber survey to greenhouse users on the use of growth chambers in anticipation of purchasing several new growth chambers. As of November 19, she had received from 10 respondents, about one-third of whom indicated they would like a feature that adjusts CO₂ levels to above or below ambient. She will get an estimate of the price of the proposed new growth chambers. She will also create a list of growth chambers currently in use and their capabilities.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. after which Amy Hilske led the committee members on a tour of the Greenhouse Innovation Center.