Greenhouse Committee Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2018

The meeting started at 1:02 p.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2017 Meeting**

Cahoon motioned for the approval of the minutes. Meinke moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2017 meeting; Wegulo seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections.

**Review of Survey Results – Amy Hilske**

The survey was sent to a total of 242 people (83 were faculty and there were 61 people total that responded). Overall there was a 25% response rate. Amy Hilske reviewed each question with the group and the most popular answer for each. Listed below:

**Q1:** On a scale of 1-5 how important are these greenhouse amenities to your greenhouse projects?
Popular response: Supplement light (average of 4). Other items that were important are air conditioning and lab space.

**Q2:** How much do you anticipate your greenhouse space needs increasing in the future?
Popular response: Yes – should plan for 25%.

**Q3:** What size of greenhouse works best for your projects?
Popular response: 500 sq. feet (floor space) (comparable to smaller compartmentalized greenhouses at Plant pathology) Next popular response: 1000 sq. feet.

**Q4:** What growth chamber size would be most applicable to your projects?
Popular response: Less than 20 square feet, 20-40, or 40 – greater

**Q5:** On a scale of 1-5 how important are these amenities to your growth chamber projects?
Popular response: Average is “3” – most important amenities are: Additive humidity, LED lights, LED adjustable lights, and lights (In general - these are the main themes throughout the survey)

**Q6:** How important is the location structure in relation to your lab and/or classroom? (Scale: 1-100%)
Popular response: 55% (Broken down: 13 users selected 100% importance)

**Q7:** Please rate how these services have met with your satisfaction (based on a 0-5 scale)
Popular response: 4 or above – Services listed on survey: Greenhouse space availability, Growth chamber availability, Greenhouse staff availability, timely response to email/communications, information shared, pest disease and virus control, lighting, supplies availability, plant nutrition and fertilizer, cleanliness of greenhouse, watering (if applicable), upshifting or potting (if applicable), overall plant quality.

**Q8:** What aspects of the current plant growth facilities do not meet your expectations and what changes would you suggest to improve these issues?
Response: 5 stated they were satisfied, 6 commented on light, 5 commented on communication of information, staff communication and pesticide timing, 3 requested more growth chambers, 3 want better control of temperatures, 3 requested specific repairs of infrastructure, 3 remarked about poor teaching facility on east campus. (22 people skipped this question)

**Q9:** As we envision UNL Plant Growth Facilities of the future, what infrastructure and/or services would you suggest to more effectively conduct your research or teaching?
Response: 7 requested modernized teaching facilities, 6 wanted updated modernized greenhouses with state of the art lighting and climate control, and 4 requested more growth chambers. (26 people did not respond to this question.)


Ed and the committee discussed information that should be included in the whitepaper. Information is listed below.

Format for white paper:
I. Executive Summary
   a. This will be an abstract that will be done at the end.

II. Importance and Impact of Plant Growth Facilities
   a. Amy, Ed, and Committee: Compile information on grants, publications, significance of projects. Would also like to see number of students we train in the facilities and a list of industry partners.

III. Current State of Plant Growth Facilities
   a. Amy: Information about capacity (greenhouse, growth chambers). When facilities were built and/or updated.

IV. Report on State of Greenhouse Infrastructure
   a. Amy: Information from facilities assessment that was completed

V. Current and Future Needs of Units (Based on surveys and interviews)
   a. Committee, Amy: **Action Item**: Ed would like members to meet with users at upcoming departmental meetings to get an idea of future needs. Suggested to use Q6, Q8, and Q9 from above survey results

VI. Recommendations

Year End Data Review – Amy Hilske

Amy Hilske presented year end data via PowerPoint. The group reviewed occupancy percentages by month for the greenhouses and growth chambers for 2017.

Growth chambers in Tier 1 and 2 are the newer ones. Those in Tier 3 and 4 are older chambers.

Next Meeting – March 14th, 11:00 – 12:00pm; 103J Ag Hall

Upcoming Scheduled Meetings:

April 11th; 10:00 – 11:00am; 103J Ag Hall

May 9th; 10:00-11:00am; 103J Ag Hall

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 1:47 p.m.