

## **Greenhouse Committee Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2018**

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m.

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

### **Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2018 Meeting**

Amundsen motioned for the approval of the minutes. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2018 meeting; Meinke seconded. The minutes were approved with no objections.

### **Chair-elect nomination/vote – Keenan Amundsen**

The group discussed those that would be interested in the chair-elect position and ultimately agreed upon James Schnable. The group voted and with no objections elected James Schnable at the committee chair-elect for FY19.

### **EPA Trainings – Amy Hilske**

Jeff Witkowski (East Campus Greenhouse Manager) had a conversation with the EPA representative and they have agreed to let us use zoom to be able to provide certain trainings to those whom may not be able to attend in person. He plans to work with Ashleigh Ravnika on getting the zoom sessions set up for the January presentations.

### **Updates – Amy Hilske**

One of the growth chambers that was fixed in July broke again, but was repaired on September 25, 2018. Since these chambers are fairly new and there are repetitive issues, Amy and her team are considering changing vendors.

There are six new Conviron chambers arriving. They will ship on October 5<sup>th</sup> and four of them will go in AGH 4 on East Campus and two will go to the Beadle Center.

Jeff Witkowski is now part of the Chancellor's safety committee. This will bring some of the greenhouse safety issues to light as well as those that are already discussed for the entire campus.

Samantha Link is now the plant growth facilities wellness coordinator.

There was a major power outage on East Campus on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> due to a wire frying underground as a power source. This caused the lights in the greenhouses to turn on and off repeatedly. This has now been repaired. The group discussed the importance of having good generators and the costs associated if one would quit functioning properly. There was also discussion regarding whom should pay for these maintenance repairs, i.e. ORED, users, ARD, other entities, etc.

Shade cloth update: Hired facilities and their roofers to come in to help put the shade cloths on. They are currently working to take off Beadles cloths and will then move onto East Campus to do the same.

### **External Review of UNL Plant Growth Facilities and Plant Phenomics – Hector Santiago**

Tala Awada joined the group to discuss the external review of the UNL Plant Growth Facilities and the Plant Phenomics. David Jackson charged the ARD office with completing an external review of the UNL Plant Growth Facilities and Plant Phenomics for IANR. The purpose of the review will be to assess the impacts of NRI investments in building research capacity through improvements to facilities and/or supporting their operations, envision or identify future needs to sustain and grow the University of Nebraska research portfolio.

Amy, Hector and Tala have drafted mission and vision statements for this review. These were shared with the committee via PowerPoint presentation.

For the self-study document it is planned to include sections regarding: the history and background of facilities development (the report conducted by UNL facilities will be included as an appendix), the staffing and reporting structure, general operations of the facilities (policies, by-laws, scheduling tools, fee structure, etc.), data analytics, financial operations and the surveys that the Greenhouse Committee sent out to faculty members.

Hector asked the committee members to send him any suggestions of personnel that could make up the external review team. He would also like to ensure that members of the Greenhouse Committee and the CITB group are involved in specific meetings with the external review team.

Tala Awada exited the meeting.

#### **Review & Approve UNL Plant Growth Facility Policies and Procedures – Amy Hilske**

Amy discussed the previously discussed changes to the policies and procedures documents to help clarify specifics for smaller projects. The proposed changes were distributed to the committee members before the meeting for their review.

Alan Christensen motioned to approve the updated policies and procedures documents. The document was approved by members with no objections.

#### **Meeting Frequency – Keenan Amundsen**

It was agreed that there should be a meeting in November to discuss budget and rates for the greenhouses. There will also be another meeting scheduled for the members to discuss the external review documents discussed by Hector once they are finalized.

#### **Other Items**

Hector proposed that the name of the committee should be changed so that it includes plant growth. The group discussed this and came up with Plant Growth Facilities Faculty Advisory Committee. This committee name change will be listed on the agenda as an approval item at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting** – November 14, 2018

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned 11:02 a.m.