

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes - May 1, 2000
NDSU Alumni Center, Fargo, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at 10:00 a.m., May 1 at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo. Members present were: Tom Archbold, Sharon Anderson, Ryan Brooks, Tim Bryan, Joseph Chapman, Sylvia Daws, Jerry Doan, Cole Gustafson, Jody Hauge, George Heller, Patricia Jensen, Burdell Johnson, and Jeff Weispfenning (for Roger Johnson).

Chairman Doan called the meeting to order. Minutes of the January 26 and January 31 meetings were approved. Doan gave updates on meetings he has participated in during the past months.

- On April 18, Doan updated the Legislative Council on SBARE activities and David Lambert, chair of Agricultural Economics reported on the biotechnology initiative.
- Doan and Cole Gustafson met with Ag Research Fund Administrator, Lori Capouch, for updates and learned that proceeds to the fund are up \$100,000 over last year.
- Doan and other ag administrators presented an initial agriculture budget to the State Board of Higher Education on February 17.
- The Livestock Endowment Foundation has identified a research committee to review and evaluate the livestock industry in North Dakota. The group has met several times during the last months and Jerry Doan, Cole Gustafson and Patricia Jensen have attended those meetings.

Don Hanson, chair of the Animal Research Facility Building Committee, updated SBARE on progress. He indicated the bids were let last week, the groundbreaking is set for May 12, and a 15-month construction period is anticipated.

Phil Boudjouk, NDSU's new Vice President for Research, Creative Activities and Technology was introduced. He made comments to the group about his challenge to increase research funding at NDSU.

Al Schneiter, Plant Sciences Department Chair and Dale Zetocha, Director of the NDSU Research Foundation, informed board members that NDSU has been working on an agreement with Monsanto to share germplasm. They responded to questions from the SBARE members relating to NDSU's policy with regard to genetically modified organisms. Several individuals strongly suggested that NDSU establish a policy statement relating to genetically modified organisms.

Ellen Bjelland, Barnes County Extension Agent, and Curt Brown from the Valley City Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the need for filling the position of an Extension Youth Development Specialist. They both addressed the need to provide educational materials and programs for youth development across North Dakota.

Sharon Anderson indicated that due to retirements, some staff responsibilities have changed. She assured the board that by realigning workloads and responsibilities, no administrative positions will be filled.

Bill Pietsch, representing the State Soil Conservation Committee, reported that the relationship between the SCS and the Extension Service has been working well since the SCS budget was merged into the Extension Service during the legislative session in 1997 .

The Livestock Endowment Foundation Research Committee, represented by Stan Melroe, Jack Dahl, and Wade Moser, shared their plans and goals. They indicated that there is a need to be more aggressive with beef cattle research in the state. They feel there are inefficiencies in the research efforts and they are ready to move ahead with a research technology initiative. They are very supportive of the previously presented "BeefLine" initiative and would also recommend making the Carrington Research Extension Center a feedlot station.

Jerry Doan explained the budget constraints faced by NDSU agriculture and the need to trim the current budget. He indicated SBARE has been working very hard on the budget and has established a priority list, but would consider the Livestock Endowment Foundation Research Committee's proposal during budget deliberations.

John Bollingberg, Steve Metzger and Pat Feist, members of the Carrington Advisory Board, indicated they felt the feedlot research would be a good option, but this was the first they had been informed of the proposal.

Jim Venette, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, reviewed the SW Consortium Agreement between NDSU and Dickinson State and also the proposed memorandum of understanding between Dickinson State University and North Dakota State University for delivery of ag courses.

Following discussions concerning duplication of ag programs, balance of research and teaching efforts for NDSU faculty, lack of resources to support offering the programs to Dickinson, and other related issues, Patricia Jensen made a motion to support the consortium agreement between NDSU and Dickinson State. Ryan Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed with Tom Archbold opposed. (Archbold later withdrew his "no" vote and supported the motion.)

Jody Hauge made a motion to send the State Board of Higher Education a statement from the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education indicating the ag degree at Dickinson State should remain an associate degree. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion. Following discussion, Hauge withdrew the motion.

Ryan Brooks made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding between Dickinson State University and North Dakota State University for the delivery of agriculture courses with the deletion of the last sentence in section III. A. 1, which reads, "In return, DSU has been allowed access to the DREC facilities and research plots for observations and experiments." Sharon Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed with Tom Archbold opposed.

Jerry Doan reported that the NDSU barley program will be adversely affected by the resignations of three key researchers in the Plant Pathology Department. Vice President Patricia Jensen indicated there will be an effort to restore the program to full strength as soon as possible.

Tim Bryan informed the group that there is an opportunity to purchase land adjacent to the North Central Research Extension Center. Bryan felt this option should seriously be considered.

John Lukach indicated the Langdon Research Extension Center is anxiously waiting for State Board of Higher Education approval to move ahead with fund-raising for the Northeast North Dakota Learning Facility in Langdon.

Patricia Berglund clarified with SBARE that the Northern Crops Institute Feedmill is operational and currently manufactures feed for NDSU, as well as other research centers on request.

As a follow-up the morning discussion about the Carrington feedlot issue, Jerry Doan indicated the need for unity among the state's livestock industry and the members of State Board of Agricultural Research and Education. He noted that the agricultural interests in North Dakota need to work together for the betterment of agriculture across the state.

Discussion followed concerning the Carrington feedlot as proposed by the Livestock Endowment Foundation research committee. Members felt that with the severe budget constraints and priorities already discussed, it would be difficult to support the proposal as presented. Tim Bryan made a motion to ask Vern Anderson to compile and present information on a scaled back feedlot at Carrington (250 head of cattle) and also to provide additional information on a 1,000 head feedlot plan. George Heller seconded the motion which passed with Tom Archbold and Sylvia Daws opposed.

Prior to the next SBARE meeting, the department chairs, center directors and leadership team will meet to determine how to proceed with the required budget reductions to maintain a hold-even budget.

The board briefly discussed indirect costs. Burdell Johnson made a motion that Chairman Jerry Doan request copies of the university policy regarding indirect costs. Tim Bryan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson