

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes - March 25, 2002
Peace Garden Room, NDSU Memorial Union, Fargo, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met at NDSU, Peace Garden Room, in Fargo, ND on March 25, 2002 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members present were Sharon Anderson, Tom Archbold, Keith Bjerke (for Joseph Chapman), Ryan Brooks, Tim Bryan, Jerry Doan, Carol Goodman, Jody Hauge, George Heller, Patricia Jensen, Burdell Johnson, Roger Johnson, Ken Solberg, and Jim Venette.

Chairman Jerry Doan called the meeting to order. Minutes of the February 25-26 meeting were approved.

Doan announced two names that will be sent to the State Board of Higher Education for appointment to SBARE: Edmund Goerger, Wyndmere, ND (submitted by the Ag Coalition) and Vernon Mayer, Regent, ND (submitted by multicounty program units 9 and 10). The individuals will replace George Heller and Ryan Brooks, whose terms expire June 30, 2002.

Tim Bryan reported that the SBARE crops subcommittee met. They reviewed their obligation of identifying issues and developing strategies to address those issues and Bryan stated the committee felt they had met their responsibility.

Ryan Brooks reported that the meeting of the SBARE livestock subcommittee included conversation about scrapie, a disease recently linked to the NDSU sheep farm. Brooks also noted that programs funded through the beefline distribution have been implemented - stating they are two-year programs funded with a one-time allocation. He indicated the subcommittee is still working to schedule a meeting with the research committee of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association and the Carrington Advisory Board.

Tom Archbold reported that the engagement subcommittee met and reviewed models from other state extension service programs. The committee continued their discussions on a rural leadership initiative and discussed the engagement of the total university with extension programs. The committee had an opportunity to meet with President Chapman, who was very supportive of their direction.

Jerry Doan reported that the SBARE budget subcommittee met and spent a considerable amount of time talking about a "program budgeting" system. The group feels strongly that working on budgets and building budgets by program area is a good idea.

Doan stated that the budget subcommittee recommends that new and renovated NDSU greenhouses should be the top priority on the capital improvement list, but they suggest a study be done before any action is taken.

Tim Bryan made a motion to proceed with a study of the NDSU greenhouse capital project plan to determine costs, feasibility and scope of the project. Tom Archbold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Doan indicated the subcommittee also discussed the request for a new facility at the Dickinson Research Extension Center, stating they are convinced there is a need for a new building, but would like more information on costs. Center director Kris Ringwall told SBARE members that the preliminary request included a very early estimate and both the county and city are willing to contribute funds to the project.

Ryan Brooks made a motion to approve the concept of a new facility at Dickinson encouraging exploration of all avenues of financing. George Heller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Patricia Jensen gave the following update:

- Recent surveys report North Dakota faculty as the lowest paid in the United States, but President Chapman continues efforts to raise salaries and this year will provide additional funding from indirect costs.
- The request for a college name change to College of Agriculture, Food Systems and Natural Resources, has been approved by all NDSU committees and will now be submitted to the State Board of Higher Education.
- The search for a new director for the agricultural experiment station is ongoing - three candidates will interview.
- The University of Minnesota has asked NDSU to collaborate on food safety/food security projects.
- There has been scrapie disease linked to NDSU sheep farm and the NDSU flock is quarantined. A state audit of the sheep farm was requested when an internal audit caused concern with sheep numbers at NDSU sheep farm.

Sharon Anderson reported that the Extension Spring Conference was held in Fargo March 19-22 and went very well.

Keith Bjerke told the board that there has been closure on the real estate for the horse park and the committee is hoping to hire an architect in the very near future. He reminded board members that there is a distinct difference between the NDSU horse program and the horse park. He stated it looks like there will be horses on site by calendar year 2003.

Following a lunch break, the board reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

Reporting on the past session's legislative requirements, Sharon Anderson stated that seven livestock marketing clubs are in place and working fairly well.

Tim Bryan told SBARE that the agricultural research fund barley granting committee will continue to monitor progress for the barley initiative and accountability is expected from researchers.

Bryan distributed information reviewed by the SBARE crops subcommittee, including a list of research areas the committee feels need consideration. The list will be shared with research units and will be updated as subsequent areas are noted.

Randy Mehlhoff, Langdon Research Extension Center Director, reported that they will soon be done with the capital campaign to support the Langdon Learning Center. Mehlhoff also noted he has been working with Joel Leapaltdt, the architect from the Office of Management and Budget.

Blaine Shatz, Carrington Research Extension Center Director, told the board that after the February meeting of SBARE, he had discussions regarding the Carrington feedmill project and the board's recommendation to rebid. He has learned that it would take considerable time to rebid the project and Carrington would like to work with bidding contractors to revise plans to provide a functional facility with more conservative allocation, being sure to allow for future expansion.

Ken Solberg made a motion to reconsider the action approved at the February meeting calling for rebidding the Carrington feedmill project and to authorize discussion to rebid a feedmill that falls within budget allocation and provides a workable mill with capacity for expansion. Burdell Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Lynn Wolfe, Dakota Resource Council, expressed concern with regard to GMO-free seedstock. He stated that members of the council are looking for printed documentation that would guarantee that NDSU's seedstock is not contaminated.

Jody Hauge made a motion to request that ag faculty develop a set of guidelines/protocol for GMO research plots and isolation distance and present at the next meeting. Ryan Brooks seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson