

FEQL Advisory Board Meeting
April 17, 2002
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Scott McKinnie, Rick Roeder (for Don Abbott), Dave Winckler, John Peterson, Greg Möller, Barbara Morrissey, Marilyn Perkins, Janet Kurina, Ann George, John Baranowski, Bill Chase (for Rick Long), Kim Anderson, Paul Monahan, Ralph Cavaleri, Royal Schoen

Board Members Absent: Matthew Kiefer, Randy Smith, Sue Izard

Others Present: Jim Zuiches, John Brown, Art Linton, Catherine Daniels, Doug Walsh, Allan Felsot, Vince Hebert, John Brown, Sally O'Neal Coates

Chair Marilyn Perkins opened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves. Dean Zuiches explained that he had appointed Ralph Cavaleri to replace him on the FEQL advisory board. This move comes in response to recognition that the original legislative intent of this position on the advisory board was to represent Washington State University's research function. Dr. Cavaleri's position as Director of WSU's Agricultural Research Center makes him a very appropriate board member. Dr. Zuiches becomes an ex-officio board member.

Marilyn Perkins asked for and received approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Discussion ensued about length and content of the minutes. Given the infrequency of the board's meetings, it was agreed that our somewhat lengthy and inclusive minutes are appropriate.

Catherine Daniels asked if it would be acceptable that future packets be distributed via e-mail. Most board members present agreed that e-mail was a preferred way to receive the agenda, map, and other packet materials. Paul Monahan's packet will be mailed. Packets will be e-mailed in the future. (Board members not in attendance at the 4-17 meeting who wish their packets mailed or faxed should contact Doria Monter-Rogers at 509-372-7462. All board members should review the enclosed Advisory Board membership list to ensure we have the best e-mail address for use in future correspondence.)

The board recognized Scott McKinnie's service as inaugural chair of the board by presenting him with a framed certificate.

Budget Update

Dean Zuiches explained the impacts of recent state budget cuts on higher education in general and Washington State University in particular. The net result of the various reductions is a cut of \$17 million to the university. The university will be asking the Board of Regents to raise tuition by 16% to cover part of this shortfall. The board of Regents will meet and make this decision on May 10. Even if the tuition raise is approved, 3-3.5% budget cuts will be required throughout the university; this cut will

result in an approximate \$1.2-1.5 million cut to the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Some of these reductions will likely come in the form of support staff budget cuts in addition to the current freezes on non-essential travel, salary increases, and other expenses. Quality of education will remain the highest priority, but all programs are subject to cuts. Courses are likely to be cut; some faculty are likely to leave and not be replaced. Research and extension will be impacted. Zuiches closed by outlining some of the positive things that are happening in the university, including the completion of strategic plans throughout the various departments. Initiatives are underway toward development and strengthening of programs in enology and viticulture, biologically intensive and organic agriculture, and watershed management and water quality.

Marilyn Perkins asked about the expense to the university of having FEQL Advisory Board meetings. Catherine Daniels presented a transparency showing that the cost of holding an advisory board meeting in Tri-Cities at \$2680 per meeting. In a related comment, some board members have asked whether the board meeting could be held in another location. The table below shows relative costs of holding the meeting in other locations. WSU faculty and staff member expenses are not included in these calculations.

	Richland	Vancouver	Olympia	Yakima
Driving		\$3,590	\$3,517	\$2,000
Driving/Flying	\$2,680	\$7,270	\$5,332	\$3,376
Overnight Stay		\$8,806	\$6,964	\$3,856

Faculty Accomplishment Reports

Perkins initiated a general discussion of the faculty accomplishment reports that were provided in advance packets. These reports were provided in this manner for the first time in response to board member requests that such information be provided in advance of the meetings in a written form rather than strictly as a live presentation. Board consensus was that this material was very useful in that it was clearer and more objective than taking notes from a live presentation. It also facilitated their forwarding such information to other parties. Faculty said that it was not inappropriately time-consuming to prepare these reports if the board found them useful.

Discussion of Catherine Daniels' accomplishments included feedback on the Pesticide Information Center (PIC) newsletter, *Agrichemical and Environmental News*. The newsletter became an exclusively electronic publication in January 2002 (after 30 years as a print publication and 6 years on-line). Members expressed uniform satisfaction with the enhancements in the electronic edition. (The newsletter is available on-line at <http://aenews.wsu.edu> ; any board member who wishes to receive an e-mail notice when each month's newsletter is launched can self-subscribe at this URL or contact Sally O'Neal Coates at scoates@tricity.wsu.edu or 509-372-7378.) The rejection of PIC's proposal for assistance with crop profiles by the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration was discussed. Individual WSCPR board members support the idea of crop profiles (documents detailing current pesticide practices for use by USDA

and EPA in determining pesticide tolerance changes and cancellations) but, according to WSCPR member Ann George, WSCPR preferentially funds “ground-up” proposals initiated by growers, and PIC’s proposal appeared “top-down,” initiated by researchers. Discussion ensued about how important and useful crop profiles are and why more of them aren’t produced. Catherine explained that growers and commodity groups often don’t seem to recognize the full value of these profiles, and that it takes a great deal of time investment by PIC staff to enroll groups in the process.

Doug Walsh discussed his accomplishments. He is pleased to have been assigned a laboratory at the Prosser Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center. Of Doug’s many field research projects, he spoke of his success in procuring grants and executing research on buffer zones. Technically a field entomologist, Doug works closely with actual growers in a number of commodities including mint, hybrid poplars, and wine grapes. He has also been working with WSU virologist Dr. Gary Grove to include disease research as well as insect research on these crops. Barbara Morrissey questioned chemigation’s impact on water quality (Doug’s mint research involves precision chemigation – inclusion of pesticides in irrigation water – in mint; see his accomplishments statement from previous board packet.) Doug explained, and Ann George also attested to, the rigorous scrutiny of chemigation with respect to water quality and health concerns. He described a precision injector system with which he is working to make this application. Doug also spoke about a project on which he is working with Dr. Fran Pierce, Director of the Center for Precision Agricultural Systems. A grant from American Farmland Trust has enabled CPAS to establish a site-specific weather network through which weather data is monitored and shared among a network of growers. This network model may be applicable to insect and other research.

Vince Hebert talked about his first year and a half with FEQL. He emphasized the infrastructure-building process in which he has engaged over the past eighteen months, especially bringing the FEQL analytical laboratory facility to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards and establishing functional working partnerships with Gregg Möller’s Idaho lab and Kim Anderson’s Oregon lab. Regarding specific projects, his IR-4 (Interregional Research Project #4 minor crops protection) studies have been completed ahead of schedule. Two magnitude-of-residue studies have been completed, written, submitted, and approved; a third is completed and being written at this time. Allan Felsot emphasized the tremendous volume of work Vince and his research staff have performed over the past year and a half. The implications of running a GLP lab were discussed, particularly the demands on a lab director’s time and the question of how to balance that with other research and publishing activities. John Peterson supported Vince’s perspective that GLP-level standards are best left in place even on studies where they are not required, as it’s too easy to fall

into bad habits switching back and forth. He congratulated Allan and Vince in collecting data to answer other research questions in order to publish while doing GLP work.

Allan Felsot passed around a handout on his study of the effects of the number of spray applications on azinphos-methyl (AZM) residues in composite and single serving apples and a copy of a journal article entitled "Web resources for pesticide toxicology, environmental chemistry, and policy: a utilitarian perspective" (Felsot, A.S. 2002. *Toxicology* 173:153-166). Copies are available from Allan on request. Allan discussed his transgenic research. Ralph Cavalieri asked if FEQL's lab would be involved in genetically modified (GM) product "gene residue" (presence or absence of certain genetic markers) research. Allan said that this was not planned at this time, as GM crops are not a major component of Washington agriculture, but from a public perception standpoint, Allan felt WSU should position itself to become more active in informing the public about biotech research in the future. He explained that not all research takes place in a laboratory; some of his work involves reviewing and elucidating existing research. Paul Monahan asked about the specific state of AZM use in apples. Allan mentioned that a neonicotinyl compound (acetamprid) is being studied to replace some AZM use.

Discussion of Advisory Board Survey

On the balance, twice a year, full-day meetings in Tri-Cities seemed to be the best frequency, duration, and location.

Several board members expressed concern or confusion about the board's usefulness and purpose in their survey responses. Jim Zuiches observed both the high caliber of board members and the high attendance at this particular meeting. Faculty members reiterated the value of the diverse cross-section of entities represented by the board and the key positions board members hold within their organizations. The opportunity to interface with this particular board gives FEQL faculty an opportunity to regroup twice a year with the university's community constituency in mind. While the FEQL may not have the funding flexibility to respond in an immediate manner to directions proposed by the advisory board, the FEQL does take the comments of the board into serious consideration when pursuing its overall mission. It is true that much of the lab's funding is grant-based, but faculty have a choice of which grants to pursue. Emphasis on worker safety in addition to food safety is an example of a focus shift promoted by the board and pursued by FEQL. The value of the board as a communication hub was also emphasized. Not only do FEQL and WSU internalize the opinions of the advisory board, advisory board members take the information about FEQL activities back to their constituencies. Nearly every individual in attendance expressed specific ways that their involvement with the board was useful to them. Marilyn Perkins suggested that FEQL staff look into

the feasibility of inviting local legislators to the meetings, particularly to those meetings that fall when the legislature is not in session.

Terms of Appointment

The terms of Marilyn Perkins, Matthew Keifer, Royal Schoen, Gregg Möller, Dave Winckler, and Barbara Morrissey are all scheduled to expire June 30, 2002.

All present members agreed to accept appointment to another term, some with reservations that they may need to send proxies in their stead due to scheduling or transportation problems. Some members questioned whether they were the best individual representative from their agency or sector, and board members were reminded that guests are welcome at FEQL advisory board meetings. If a board member has a colleague whose position might be particularly appropriate to a specific meeting, they are always welcome to bring them.

Matt Keifer was not in attendance; several board members expressed how valuable and appropriate his contribution to the board is and encouraged FEQL staff to retain Matt if he was willing to serve.

Election of Officers

Kim Anderson nominated Dave Winckler to serve as the next chair for the Advisory Board. Dave was unanimously elected. Scott McKinnie nominated Ann George to serve as next year's vice-chair. Ann was unanimously elected.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the FEQL Advisory Board is scheduled for October 23, 2002. Board members who have a schedule conflict and cannot attend should contact Catherine Daniels at cdaniels@tricity.wsu.edu or 509-372-7495 as soon as possible. If a significant number of board members cannot attend, an alternate date will be considered.

The group recessed at 11:50 to continue its informal discussion of priorities and the board's involvement with the FEQL over lunch. The afternoon sessions focused on worker exposure issues.

Worker Exposure: Cholinesterase Testing Update

Janet Kurina provided the board with an update on worker cholinesterase testing for pesticide handlers and applicators mandated by the Washington State Supreme Court in February 2002. The rulemaking process is underway now and public meetings will be held. Environmental advocacy groups are asking for testing to be in place before the 2003 field season; this is an admittedly ambitious schedule, but is the current goal. Parties interested in participating in the rulemaking process can contact Janet at kuri235@lni.wa.gov or 360-902-5478.

Worker Exposure: Allan Felsot

Allan discussed a new research project on sprayer technology funded for crop year 2002 by the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission. Enhancing application efficiency is one path toward reducing production costs as well as reducing human health hazard. This project will investigate the relative efficiency of various spray technologies in an effort to determine the most efficient equipment, the minimum effective application rate, residue deposition, better means of determining worker hazard, and methods that minimize drift. Board members asked about specific sprayer technologies and applicability of these spray application results to herbicides (the current project involves insecticides only).

Worker Exposure: Vince Hebert

This year, Vince will be involved in a pesticide spray drift exposure study in cooperation with Dr. Richard Fenske at the University of Washington. The study will use global positioning technology (GPS) to track movements of 12 children within their home and community toward defining real-life exposures and associated risks. Subjects and their environments will be monitored (via urine testing, hand wipes, air sampling, dust sampling, etc.) following spraying of nearby fields.

Vince and his staff will also be involved in a study examining the kinetic behavior of aged pheromone dispensers. Pheromone mating disruption has become a major component of codling moth control in Pacific Northwest apple orchards. In cooperation with Jay Brunner at the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center, FEQL will monitor and analyze the release rates from dispensers at various ages. In keeping with Vince's area of specialization, atmospheric transport, he will also examine the fate of the released pheromones.

Worker Exposure: Doug Walsh

Doug spoke briefly about last year's study among apple thinners and cherry pickers for carbaryl (Sevin) and AZM (Guthion) residues. He enlightened the board about a number of practical concerns when conducting on-site residue testing with humans.

Extension Transfer Opportunities: Carol Ramsay

Carol Ramsay, Pesticide Education Specialist, gave the board an update on a Cooperative Extension opportunity via conference call from Pullman. Because of the success of Carol's past Pesticide Issues Conferences, she has been asked by University of Washington to take the lead on co-hosting a pesticide issues conference. Where Carol's conference had generally been held in the fall, a later date is being targeted for this new conference in order to give late-maturing crop (e.g., orchard) growers a better opportunity to participate. The date proposed is February 26, 2003.

An advisory committee is being assembled; this committee will begin meeting in May 2002. In a handout circulated to the FEQL Advisory Board, Carol provided an outline of notes from the organizing committee's initial teleconference. She directed the board's attention to item 2g on the handout, which is a list of prospective advisory committee members for the conference. The tentative conference theme is "Agriculture and Health Issues," therefore many of the listed individuals are involved in human health pesticide issues. Anyone with suggestions for conference advisors should contact Carol at ramsay@wsu.edu or 509-335-9222. This could change or become less broad as planning proceeds.

There is a possibility that an urban pesticide issues conference, separate from this one, could be scheduled for Fall 2002. Carol is open to ideas on a theme for this conference.

General Discussion

In response to suggestions from the board, this advisory board meeting was organized around the theme of worker exposure. As this seemed to be a very successful meeting, discussion ensued on possible themes for future meetings. Barbara Morrissey suggested water quality. While faculty have participated in many projects relating to water quality, there may be other areas more topical with respect to current research. FEQL faculty and staff will continue to accept suggestions on themes for the October meeting from now until August. Gregg Möller pointed out that the advisory board meeting can also work as an opportunity to expose other entities, such as EMSL (the Battelle Pacific Northwest Environmental and Molecular Sciences Laboratory) to FEQL.

Several board members, throughout the day's meeting, had asked what else they could be doing personally to aid FEQL efforts. Rick Roeder (attending on behalf of Don Abbott and the Department of Ecology) asked whether the various agency representatives might provide the board, FEQL faculty, and staff with brief updates on upcoming policy actions underway within their agencies; the consensus was that this would be helpful. Board members could also participate in the themed discussion (afternoon topic) from their agency's perspective. Input on themes for next fall's meeting will be requested in late summer before a draft agenda is circulated to board members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.