

MINUTES
FEQL Advisory Board Meeting
April 23, 2003
WSU Tri-Cities Campus
CIC Room 120

Board Members Present: Don Abbott, John Baranowski, William Chase (for Rick Long), Ann George, Pete Jacoby (for Ralph Cavaliere), Matthew Kiefer, Scott McKinnie, Barbara Morrissey, Marilyn Perkins, Royal Schoen, Randy Smith, Todd Taruscio (for Greg Möller), Dave Winckler

Board Members Absent: Kim Anderson, Janet Kurina, Paul Monahan

Others Present: Ed Adams, John Brown, Sally O'Neal Coates, Catherine Daniels, Allan Felsot, David Granatstein, Vince Hebert, Art Linton, Steve McGeehan (University of Idaho Analytical Laboratory)

.....

Chair Dave Winckler opened the meeting at 9 a.m. with introductions of board members and guests. The first order of business was the update of board member terms. Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration representative Ann George's term was due to expire June 30, 2003; she agreed to serve another term. Rick Long's and Janet Kurina's terms are also expiring; as neither were present, they will be contacted by FEQL staff to determine whether they are willing to continue to serve. The board is seeking a representative for two vacant positions: private analytical laboratory and environmental organization. Board members are encouraged to contact FEQL faculty with suggestions for individuals who might fill either of those positions.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted unanimously as distributed prior to today's meeting.

Ann George, outgoing vice chair, was nominated to serve as chair for the coming year. Randy Smith was nominated to serve as vice chair. Both were elected without contest.

University Budget Report

Pete Jacoby, representing WSU administration and reporting in Ralph Cavaliere's stead, presented an update on the university's budget. He explained that WSU has approached the state legislature with a request to maintain core funding, but the outlook is not extremely positive. The university is likely facing an overall 3-5% budget cut. This will mean, among other things, no salary increases for the coming year, however recruitment and hiring of faculty and staff is expected to continue. Legislative micromanagement of not only funding, but of many spending parameters, continues to hamper university operations. On the upside, WSU does have funding for several important capital (i.e., building construction) projects, including the \$1.5 million precision agriculture/viticulture facility planned for Prosser. Pete indicated that, within the

university, the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, of which FEQL is a part, has consistently positioned itself well through the efforts of Dean James Zuiches to access what limited funds are available.

Pete also reported the results of a recent survey reviewing the Safe Food Initiative, indicating that the \$7.5 million in SFI funds received from the legislature over two years has generated more than \$7.5 in grants on the part of the SFI faculty.

State Agency Reports

Barbara Morrissey reported that the Department of Health has been focusing on SARS information and analysis of foreign substances suspected to be anthrax or other chemical weapons (to date, none have tested positive). The current Pesticide Incident and Reporting Tracking (PIRT) panel report is still underway; results are not available at this time. DOH is also reviewing the success of the pesticide notification and reporting system in place in schools and daycares.

Don Abbott reported that the Department of Ecology's lead arsenate task force is wrapping up its work and that Ecology is seeking strong candidates for 10 paying internships available this summer.

Royal Schoen reported that the Washington State Department of Agriculture anticipates a 4-8% budget cut. Washington State Agricultural Statistics service is likely to be cut, resulting in dependence on the National Agriculture Statistics Service and less county level data availability. Reallocation of some "ag local budget" (funds generated on a local level directly from agriculture, such as through chemical sales) has been discussed, but Royal felt this was unlikely. In the wake of the recent closure of the Washington State Apple Commission, rewording of legislation is underway that may help prevent other commodity commissions from suffering the same fate. The effect of such legislation would be that commissions would be more accountable to governmental regulatory agencies (e.g., WSDA), but would ideally retain separate budgets. (Commodity commissions in Washington State have been formed under approximately eight different enabling statutes. Some have more direct accountability to existing regulatory agencies than others.)

Discussion followed as to repercussions of commodity commissions in general and the apple commission in particular.

Faculty Accomplishment Reports

FEQL faculty members had submitted written reports of their recent accomplishments with the packet of information prior to today's meeting.

Catherine Daniels, FEQL faculty member and Director of the Washington State Pest Management Resource Service (WSPRS, formerly Pesticide Information Center), fielded questions regarding her program. She explained the three-tiered funding structure that provides most of WSPRS' operating budget: the US Department of Agriculture distributes funds to four regional centers around the nation; these regional centers in turn

disburse funds to states. The overall purpose of these funds is two-way communication of integrated pest management information. In Washington's case, we apply to the Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center at the University of California at Davis for a share of the funds they receive from USDA.

Catherine also explained a new role for WSPRS staff member Jane Thomas, who in September 2002 assumed a 52% position funded by the Western Region Integrated Pest Management Center as a Comment Coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Coalition, a subset of states (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) within the Western Region. When EPA and/or USDA requires feedback (or when the affected growers within the coalition states wish to communicate with the Federal government) on use patterns of a particular chemical, Jane interviews affected users and user groups, collates the feedback, and provides it to the federal government. This process has been very well received by both the participating state representatives and by EPA and USDA. Comments have been submitted on methyl parathion and dimethoate, and a carbaryl survey is underway.

Allan Felsot reported on recent field work toward answering the question: can improved sprayer technologies enable reduced use of chemicals in tree fruit orchards? His slide presentation illustrated the differences between conventional airblast sprayers and a more targeted spray delivery system called Proptec. Some of the results of this preliminary research are discussed in the May 2003 issue of *Agrichemical and Environmental News* at Internet URL <http://aenews.wsu.edu>. The FEQL plans to continue refining this research in collaboration with the University of Washington.

Doug Walsh recapped his responsibilities with IR-4 then presented some slides and visual aids about recent work he has been doing in spotted cutworm and redbacked cutworm management on grape vineyards. He explained that the traditional overall vineyard application of chlorpyrifos (Lorsban) is very disruptive to integrated pest management in that it kills beneficial predator insects as well as pest insects. Doug's staff has been researching barrier application of pyrethroids (Danitol) and organic hot pepper wax in a highly targeted fashion at the point where the vine contacts the ground. They have been realizing very effective control rates. Should this treatment prove commercially viable, it could save growers considerable money and be more IPM-compatible than traditional controls.

He also reported on research they have been conducting and plan to expand on biological control of lygus bugs through conservation and augmentation of parasitic wasps. Doug's buffer zone research continues and he is also working on biocontrol of volunteer potatoes by encouraging presence of Colorado potato beetles in concert with applying reduced rates of herbicide.

Vince Hebert reviewed the activities of his program; his slide show detailing these activities and describing upcoming activities is attached to these minutes. In a subsequent general discussion about FEQL faculty responsibilities and evaluation within the

university, John Brown announced that Vince had recently received a successful three-year evaluation, a critical faculty milestone.

Organics, Biopesticides and Reduced-Risk Materials

In keeping with the agreed-upon format of FEQL Advisory Board meetings, the afternoon session was devoted to a particular topic related to agriculture and the environment. The topic for today's meeting was "organics, biopesticides, and reduced-risk materials."

Our first featured speaker was David Granatstein with WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR). His office is located in Wenatchee at the Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center. The CSANR was created in 1991 by the same state legislation that enabled creation of the FEQL. David offered a primer on organics in the United States, including an abbreviated explanation of the National Organic Program. His presentation slides are included in these minutes.

FEQL faculty members Allan Felsot, Doug Walsh, and Vince Hebert made presentations on environmental, health, and efficacy aspects of biologically derived and certified organic pesticides and IR-4 involvement in biopesticides registration. Copies of their presentation visuals are included with these minutes.

FEQL/WSPRS Strategic Plan

FEQL faculty members encouraged advisory board members to carefully review the strategic plan distributed prior to this meeting and provide any input. Pete Jacoby reminded faculty that individual unit strategic plans should remain mindful of departmental and overall WSU strategic plan elements and objectives (specifically four points recently articulated by the Dean). Matt Kiefer asked if copies of the enabling legislation could be provided to board members to assist in strategic plan review. Catherine Daniels will see that FEQL staff sends out a copy of the four overall WSU strategic plan elements that need to be addressed and a copy of the enabling legislation along with another copy of the draft strategic plan by next week. (This material was sent by email April 28.) Advisory board members were asked to respond in some fashion within two weeks (by May 12). It was agreed that all conversations and feedback on the plan be conducted by email and that all advisory board members be copied on all input.

Legislative Report

Dave Winckler gave a status report on the task force that had been formed in October to prepare a legislative report. The form and content of this report has been the subject of much discussion and very little has been resolved, but it has come to light that the FEQL enabling legislation requires an annual report. As we are over a decade beyond the first report due date, the group was unsure whether to attempt to report on all 12-13 years, or just the most recent accomplishments. Ed Adams suggested a very short (1-2 page maximum) summary of only recent (last 3 years') accomplishments for the legislature, which would then be turned over to WSU lobbyist Larry Ganders for use only as needed. This type of report will then be re-issued every year. A second, more elaborate report

should also be produced for industry. Producing the longer report first may be a more efficient way to proceed; the legislative report will be an abbreviated version of the industry report.

New Business

John Brown reported that *Agrichemical and Environmental News* is in the process of becoming a partially refereed journal. Setting this up requires assembling a panel of subject experts who will serve as an editorial board of peer reviewers. An average of one article per issue will be peer reviewed and identified as such in the journal. The peer-reviewed articles will be reviewed by the appropriate subject editor on the editorial board, who will also submit it for review to two other experts in the field. This new structure will increase the prestige of publishing in *AENews*, provide a higher level of publication credit for academic authors and others whose career advancement depends upon publication, and facilitate procurement of even higher quality articles for this award-winning newsletter. It will also free Doug Walsh, Allan Felsot, and Vince Hebert from their editorial board duties.

Next Meeting

Due to travel difficulties presented by the fall board meeting, it was suggested that any future fall meetings be held with the assistance of WSU's "WECAN" video-conferencing system. This system can be set up at numerous WSU campus/research center/learning sites around the state (e.g., Yakima, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, Puyallup, Prosser).

Alternately, it was suggested that fall meetings be eliminated in favor of going with a single annual meeting in the spring. After discussion, the board voted to eliminate the fall meeting unless it was deemed absolutely necessary due to lack of participation in critical discussions by email such as the upcoming feedback on the strategic plan. Should a fall or other meeting be deemed necessary by the FEQL faculty, the WECAN system would be considered as an effective strategy.

The next board meeting will be held April 21, 2004, in the Tri-Cities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.