

MINUTES  
FEQL Advisory Board Meeting  
April 29, 2009

Board Members Present: Kim Anderson, Deborah Carter, Ann George, Steve McGeehan, Barbara Morrissey, Marilyn Perkins, Royal Schoen, Steve Thun, Marty Weis

Board Members Absent: Ralph Cavalieri, William Chase, Sandra Halstead, Steve Harris, Matthew Keifer

Others Present: Catherine Daniels, Allan Felsot, Vince Hebert, Jane LePage, Doug Walsh, Richard Zack

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Interim Chair Ann George called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Introductions were made from each of the remote sites: Prosser, Tumwater, Puyallup, Pullman, and phone-in members and guests.

Marilyn Perkins moved to approve the April 30, 2008 minutes as they were emailed to each board member. Debbie Carter seconded; minutes were approved unanimously as presented by email attachment.

Ann George opened the floor to new items for the meeting agenda. No new items were added to the meeting agenda.

**CAHNRS Update**

Rich Zack provided the update for the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resources Sciences (CAHNRS), Department of Entomology, and Extension. He discussed the university budget cuts due to the state budget deficit and how the biennium budget will affect FEQL. The WSU Entomology department, of which FEQL is a part, was asked to take 5% budget decrease from state allocated staff positions. FEQL will be asked to absorb that cut with grant funds. Zack also recognized the need to update the equipment and facilities of the FEQL analytical lab. He stated that the Administration and College understand this need and he is working with the college to figure a way to budget for upgrades through the college administration and state.

Ann George asked each researcher to address the budget updates in their individual talks.

Rich Zack said he wants to address the need or priority of the committee to ask for more funds for FEQL. He discussed the need to seriously look at the issue over the next year especially as we start to advance FEQL. He advised the committee to get something on paper for college administration so that we can advance that effort.

Allan Felsot asked if there would be a change in the department due to budget cuts and would that affect FEQL?

Rich Zack responded that the entire department including FEQL was asked to take 5% cut from state allocations for support staff but he does not foresee any additional Entomology cuts.

Ann George introduced the faculty activities.

### **Faculty Reports**

**Dr. Doug Walsh** presented an activity report to the board. He announced that he was promoted to full professor in June 2008. He also received an Integrated Pest Management Team Award from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America. He is acting branch president and will host the branch meeting in Boise, ID. He continues to publish papers, newspaper articles, work with commodity groups (including the Hop Commission) and has received approved funding from the Hop Research Council.

Walsh's involvement in the IR4 research program continues with 19 field studies this year. He has hired Dan Groenendale to replace Ron Wight. In addition he provided more discussion regarding his livestock research (including work with George Peck, post-PhD, on pesticide infused netting to combat pest insects in cattle) and grapevine research.

Vince Hebert asked how Dr. Walsh's program would be impacted [by the budget cuts]. Doug Walsh explained that he had only 0.5 FTE of state allocation, which would be reduced to approximately 0.44 by budget cuts.

Debbie Carter congratulated Dr. Walsh for his distinguished award and for branch work.

**Dr. Allan Felsot** opened his activity report by indicating that the budget cuts won't affect him, with the possible exception of cuts in travel services, because he doesn't get any technical support from the state. Dr. Felsot remains involved in the AGRO division of the American Chemical society and IUPAC. He will be attending the national ACS meeting with self-funding. He is organizing symposia and industry speakers for the ACS as well. Dr. Felsot's recent awards and achievements are listed on his activity report.

Dr. Felsot reported that he has turned his time away from residue chemistry as he saw no need for two pesticide residue chemists at FEQL and has changed his focus to teaching. He has taught at least two courses per semester for the last three semesters. His activity report provides course descriptions.

In addition, Felsot's activities include mentoring the Debate Team on the position of "Anti-GMO"; mentoring undergraduate students; serving on the committees for six graduate students; studying probabilistic modeling; and, serving as PI for the Native Plants greenhouse and demonstration plot(s). He continues to be committed as extension toxicologist for the campus. He has also set up a Facebook page featuring insect information.

Doug Walsh asked if budget cuts would affect the status of the graduate students. Felsot replied that most of his graduate students were working full time and anticipated that it may inhibit the number of graduates applying for graduate school but that the budget concerns may

be more applicable to undergraduates. Vince Hebert emphasized the point that Drs. Felsot and Hebert were the only functional science staff at WSU-TC and as such served an important role in order for the students to get masters degrees. He also recognized Felsot's PCB probabilistic risk assessment work as innovative, publishable, applicable to Washington, and well directed. And he congratulated Felsot for the Founders Memorial Award from the Entomological Society of America.

Ann George commended Felsot's enthusiasm for the topics he teaches. Felsot provided more explanation about Monte Carlo modeling and addressed Barb Morrissey's question regarding role of teaching within the mission of FEQL. Teaching informs and provides risk assessment; WSU as a whole values the sciences, enhancing our mission; extension is a form of teaching which enhances our mission.

**Dr. Catherine Daniels** provided a review of her program accomplishments. As director of the Washington State Pest Management Resource Service (WSPRS) she maintains the WSPRS web page. Additionally, PICOL remains their core work for both Washington and Oregon Department of Agriculture, maintaining the labels and tolerance database. They are trying to increase the number of documents they review. They also operate the Pesticide Notification Network (PNN) with more than 300 subscribers, 41k emails annually and an opinion survey this year. She noted that with state budget cuts the Pesticide Registration Commission will likely pass along cuts and therefore PNN may have to cut services.

Dr. Daniels highlighted the comment coordinator position. Jane Thomas is on loan to IPM centers as regional comment coordinator. Daniels provided an example of how the work of the comment coordinator provided information to the EPA which was key to an EPA decision on buffer requirement in wheat.

In addition, Dr. Daniels noted new activities such as serving on the Pesticide Program Dialog Committee, advisory to EPA, to investigate the feasibility of web distributed labeling for pesticides. She is also working with researchers at the Puyallup campus to articulate her program within research there. An example of this research includes using the Puyallup parking lot to study storm water runoff and how pollutants percolate through different materials.

**Dr. Vince Hebert** provided an update of the activities of the FEQL analytical lab, his extension and outreach activities, and collaborative research. Dr. Hebert recognized that running an analytical facility is not inexpensive; he feels confident about the increased level of output but noted that it needs to be balanced with consideration of personnel, budget cuts, and obsolete instrumentation.

Dr. Hebert has collaborative research projects both within WSU and among other groups. He discussed ongoing projects with DOH and Barb Morrissey, John Stark, Jay Brunner, and Doug Walsh.

Dr. Hebert highlighted staff contributions for conducting/completing the pesticide fate and transport research (Jane LePage) and the continued/growing IR4 pesticide residue program

(Elizabeth Culbert). He highlighted the expert capability of Culbert and LePage for conducting IR-4 GLP residue chemistry and quality assurance while completing these programs in a timely manner. He mentioned that although some of the residue projects don't necessarily apply to PNW crops but aid in developing the instrumentation capability of the FEQL analytical laboratory.

Barb Morrissey congratulated the FEQL lab on their recently completed 2008 fumigant air monitoring project; she noted that the WSU team performed well, presented preliminary data within a month of the last sample date and that "the taxpayers got a good deal." Dr. Hebert reiterated the equipment needs of the lab to maintain the quality of the projects produced.

Allan Felsot also noted that Dr. Hebert mentors graduate students and undergraduate interns.

### **Wrap-up**

**Board Vacancies:** Vince Hebert is working with Sandy Halstead on vacancies. The board is deficient in Farm Labor, Marketing, Farm Organization, and Ecology. The dates on the board-member roster, which was emailed to members, do not reflect last year's meeting. They will work with individuals for renewal dates.

**Old Business:** Barb Morrissey inquired about the space issue for the lab, which was a topic discussed in 2008. The WSU president made the decision to not move the FEQL at this time.

**General Discussion:** Kim Anderson proposed that the need for capital equipment be put on the agenda for 2010.

Catherine Daniels inquired about the status of the PIRT panel and pesticide advisory board. Barb Morrissey said that DOH was taking a big budget hit and PIRT was labeled for elimination in the state bill. The DOH Pesticide program staff was cut from 7 FTE to 3.4. If PIRT survives it will be in a different format than the existing, e.g. fewer meetings, that may be administered in the future by Dept. of Ecology.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting:** Barb Morrissey asked the FEQL faculty what input they want from Advisory Board. Vince Hebert responded that we need to look at balancing the work with the state mandate and the existing resources of the lab.

Ann George asked the board, since the capital equipment needs are a priority would there be interest in having the 2010 meeting at WSU-TC to look at the needs of the lab. The consensus was that with budget constraints the current format is preferred.

Dates for the 2010 Advisory Board meeting will be proposed at a future date. It was agreed that the meeting will be the same format as this year's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.