

MINUTES
FEQL Advisory Board Meeting
April 30, 2008

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

Board Members Absent: William Chase, Matthew Keifer

Others Present: Catherine Daniels, Allan Felsot, Vince Hebert, Kelly McLain, Sally O'Neal, Robert Stevens, Doug Walsh, Richard Zack

Interim Chair Ann George called the meeting to order at 10:05.

Vince Hebert introduced new FEQL Advisory Board members and an invited guest. Dr. Steve McGeehan, Director of the University of Idaho Analytical Sciences Laboratory, will be filling the Idaho/Oregon Analytical Laboratory position on the board. Marty Weis, Industrial Hygiene Supervisor with the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), joins as the board's L&I representative. Steve Harris with Far West Agribusiness Association joins the board as the Chemical and Fertilizer Industry representative. Deborah Carter of Northwest Horticultural Council joins the board as a representative of Food Processors. Special guest Kelly McLain from the Department of Ecology was invited to attend the meeting.

The minutes from the April 26, 2006 meeting were approved unanimously as moved by Royal Schoen and seconded by Ann George.

At Sandra Halstead's suggestion, the board vacancy for "Farm Labor Representative" was added to the meeting agenda under "Old Business."

Welcome

Dr. Robert Stevens, Interim Director of the host facility for the meeting, WSU's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC) in Prosser, welcomed the group and gave a brief synopsis of IAREC. The IAREC facility houses 22 WSU scientists, 11 USDA-ARS scientists, and representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

CAHNRS Update

Ralph Cavalieri explained the distinction between the College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resources Science (CAHNRS) and Extension, which are two separate entities within WSU that work together within the university system. While the faculty members of the Food and Environmental Quality Laboratory (FEQL) have significant Extension (outreach) responsibilities, the FEQL reports, through the Department of Entomology, to CAHNRS. He discussed the university-wide priorities reassessment

process and explained that, while the university is dealing with budget cuts overall, CAHNRS is optimistic that the new president's emphasis on agriculture will offset these cuts within the College. The many changes university-wide include space reallocation, which immediately impacts the FEQL in that Allan Felsot's, Vince Hebert's, and a portion of Catherine Daniels' and Doug Walsh's programs and/or staff are housed at WSU Tri-Cities and this campus is de-emphasizing science as it moves toward its vision of a four-year, Liberal Arts-focused campus. In short, these FEQL faculty members are likely to lose their physical office and laboratory space in the near future.

Faculty Reports

Dr. Doug Walsh presented the first faculty report. He explained how he divides his time between acting as an Extension specialist, engaging in organized research, functioning as Washington State IPM Coordinator (a Federally designated position in each state), acting as a representative of the Washington State Commission on Pesticide Registration (WSCP) and as the state's Interregional Research Project #4 (IR-4) representative, and supervising field and laboratory staff activities. He discussed his team's recent pest management research and Extension activities on beef cattle, wine grapes, onions, alfalfa, hops, mint, forages, and a variety of other seed and vegetable crops, including interstate cooperation with the University of Wyoming and international cooperation with China and Ghana. Dr. Walsh's recent awards and other information are presented in his Powerpoint presentation.

Dr. Allan Felsot recapped his past research in application technology (i.e., the machinery, chemicals, and adjuvants used to apply pesticides) and its impacts on pest management efficacy and gave a thumbnail profile of current projects underway through his graduate students: development of dose-response relationships for potato tuber moth neonates; probabilistic risk modeling using Crystal Ball software; literature review of emergent field and characterization of "Bucky Ball" nanoparticles, and studying universal mechanisms of calmodulin exposure response. As for future projects, he will be learning to utilize mass spectrometry to study insect metabolomics and the impact of insect feeding on antioxidants in plants. His teaching plans and responsibilities, along with some other activities, are outlined in his Powerpoint presentation.

Dr. Catherine Daniels explained how her program, the Washington State Pest Management Resource Service (WSPRS), functions as an Extension component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Focusing on information collection and dissemination, Dr. Daniels and her WSPRS staff work to understand information needs of growers, researchers, regulatory agencies, and other agricultural stakeholders and find ways to connect those stakeholders with appropriate resources. The hub of the WSPRS program can be found at their website, <http://wsprs.wsu.edu>. She also touched on her responsibility as Pesticide Coordinator for WSU and highlighted the Pesticide Notification Network and Comment Coordinator programs within WSPRS.

Dr. Vincent Hebert provided an overview of the FEQL's legislative mandate (which can be found in on the website at <http://feql.wsu.edu>) and a point-by-point thumbnail description of how the various programs of the FEQL faculty and staff meet that

mandate. He then went into greater detail on his own program, the FEQL Analytical Laboratory, discussing his group's IR-4 Magnitude of the Residue studies; work with pheromone mating disruption technologies; and pesticide fate, transport, and exposure. He recapped the instrumentation and capabilities of the lab.

The group recessed for lunch at 12:40.

Special Topic Report

Vince Hebert made a special presentation on "Current Status and Future Direction for the Pilot Washington State Air Emissions Monitoring Program for Fumigants." Dr. Hebert explained how this work was instigated four years ago by Barbara Morrissey in her position with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH). The compound primarily studied in this project was metam sodium, a controversial yet vital fumigant in potato production, among other crops. The report, including some Best Management Practices determined during the 2006-2007 experiment seasons were also summarized on Dr. Hebert's Powerpoint presentation.

Old Business

At present, there are positions open on the board for representatives of Farm Labor, Farm Organization, and Marketer. Sandy Halstead suggested that the most appropriate representative for the Farm Labor constituency would come from members of the labor force itself. She offered to initiate conversations toward finding a nominee(s) for that position. Board members with ideas for the other two positions should contact an FEQL faculty member to pursue these individuals for board membership.

New Business

Duties of the chair and vice chair were discussed. Deborah Carter nominated Sandra Halstead as chair for the upcoming year; Sandra Halstead nominated Deborah Carter as vice-chair. Kim Anderson seconded the nominations and both positions were approved unanimously.

General Discussion

Kim Anderson asked about the FEQL informational brochure that was produced in December 2004. The brochure has been used in a variety of capacities for explaining and promoting the lab. Catherine Daniels mentioned that she had a few extra copies of the brochure and that any board members who wanted a copy should let her know. Kim also suggested that the FEQL consider an electronic means of communicating with the Advisory Board, such as posting materials directed to the board in a secured place within the FEQL website or developing a blog. Allan Felsot mentioned that this might be difficult to achieve due to the decentralized maintenance of the primary FEQL website, but that perhaps a listserv could be a way of accommodating this. Deborah Carter suggested Google Groups as a versatile information exchange forum that is simple to set up and to maintain. As the FEQL has no administrative support, Allan Felsot volunteered to administer this and may call on Vice-Chair Carter to assist with setup.

Ralph Cavaliere asked whether the board had traditionally conducted a formal evaluation of the FEQL. The board has not, but Kim Anderson and Ann George spoke of the responsiveness of the FEQL faculty to many suggestions from the board in the past. A group consensus concluded that the communication between the board and the faculty has been excellent, the board is well pleased with the FEQL faculty's performance, and that no formal evaluation was necessary.

Kim Anderson pointed out that the FEQL is doing a tremendous amount of work with very limited resources and asserted that there would be no way to expect them to do more. For the sake of discussion, the faculty asked the board what it would do in the hypothetical situation of the lab having more resources. It was acknowledged that much of the analytical equipment in the lab is aging and needs replacement, and that the university has no plans to assist with replacing it. Vince Hebert estimated it would require around \$700,000 to bring most of the laboratory equipment up to date.

There was also a discussion of the diminishing physical space for research and Extension personnel on the WSU Tri-Cities campus; no immediate conclusions can be drawn or actions taken to alleviate this problem.

Allan Felsot distributed copies of *Crop Protection Technologies for Organic Agriculture*, a book he edited and assisted in writing.

Next Meeting

The board will want an update on the physical space situation on the WSU Tri-Cities campus and may wish to discuss the success of the new electronic communication (Google Group) site. Possible themes for the next meeting include biotechnology and bioproducts. Faculty will pursue possible speakers to address one of these areas. The group expressed an interest in taking a brief tour of an existing project at the Prosser research facility if the next meeting takes place there.

The next meeting of the FEQL Advisory Board will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The likely location is the Prosser IAREC facility again, with that subject to change if the FEQL has a new facility in the Tri-Cities.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.