

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date of Meeting: May 8, 2017

Meeting called to order by: Glen Borland, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present: Borland, Kannard, Patrick, Zastrow present. Hartz absent.

Agents Present: Jones and Georgson

Others Present: Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Mary Roberts, County Board Supervisor; Kim Buchholz, Administrative Specialist; Alexa Zoellner, Daily Union

Certification of Open Meetings Law: The agenda has been duly posted and the door is open.

Roll Call (establish a quorum): Quorum present

Approval of Agenda for Possible Rearrangement: None

Approval of April 10, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made by Patrick seconded by Kannard, to approve the April 10, 2017 minutes as printed.

Motion unanimously approved.

Communications: None

Public Comment: None

Item: Update, Discussion and Input on the nEXT Generation Model

Georgson provided an update on the nEXT Generation Model. He said that the office is grateful that Matt Hanson is one of the Assistant Deans who is responsible for implementation of nEXT Generation. There were 40 applicants for the 18 Area Director positions. Application information is being reviewed today. Finalists will be notified this week at which point the names will go public with hiring occurring within the last two weeks of May. The four stand-alone counties with department heads will have the department heads move into the Area Director position for their respective County. Questions were

raised if the County would be involved in the hiring process. Answer: Counties may provide input but there will not be formal interview within the County at this time.

- Counties will be asked to adopt a memorandum of understanding to continue support for UW-Extension into 2018 budget as status quo; because they may not have all the details and budgets finalized by then. It is vague as to whether dollars would be available in May.
- All counties will be put on calendar year for budgeting purposes.
- Staffing for the Counties will be determined in September.
- On a personal note for LaVern, the Dean of Extension stated that those individuals submitting for tenure must do it this Fall; otherwise, it will not be available. LaVern explained that if he applied this fall and was not successful, he would be terminated in June 2018.
- Assumption is that eventually there will be no faculty positions at the County level. This provides more opportunity to manage the educators based on needs.
- Non-tenured staff have been told that they will need to reapply for their positions. Department Head stipends will end as of December 2017.
- Area Directors will not have day to day oversight of the County Office. They will function more like regional directors. Discussion occurred.
- Wehmeier stated that the “menu of services” that was to be available in May was crucial but is not yet available.
- Question on how 4-H is connected to UW-Extension. 4-H is the youth development of Cooperative Extension on a National level. We cannot have a 4-H Youth Program without UW-Extension. Wehmeier explained that the current funding relationship today is a 60/40 split between State and County. It has been explained that in the future the cost will be based on the program, not on the educator within the position.
- There is concern over getting rid of the faculty status in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is one of the only states that has faculty status at the County level. Most other states have already gone through a process like Wisconsin is going through.
- Comment was made: They already have their model refined now they just have to fit the people into that model.

Item: Update of Jefferson County Farm Technology Days

Georgson reported that the Executive Committee has picked a slogan and some of the Chairs for the operating committees have been identified. Committee members will be having an orientation in June. Georgson did note that over the next two years there is a conflict with getting Jefferson County Farm Tech Executive Committee and other committee members to Farm Technology Days because the dates conflict with the Jefferson County Fair. Georgson stated that historically there has been a collectable farm toy developed for the Farm Show. Jefferson County has a group that includes an avid collector that are developing a proposal for the toy.

Item: Review of 2017 Departmental Budget

Georgson stated that we are in good shape.

Item: Discussion and Possible Decision on Charging 4-H Enrollment Fees

Jones presented information at the last meeting. Discussion occurred. Main goal is to serve as many people as possible. Do we want to do away with the \$20 fee? Do we need the participation fee? What happens to the budget if the fee is not charged? Jefferson County is one of the only counties in the state that charges a fee. Wehmeier explained that not charging the fee would result in a \$16,000 loss of revenue to the departmental budget. Zastrow motioned to remove the fee completely, seconded by Kannard. Motion was amended to remove the fee for the 2018 budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Item: Discussion of Monthly Agent Reports –LaVern Georgson, Bruce Jones

Written reports were distributed prior to and at the meeting. Jones and Georgson provided summaries of their written reports to the committee and took questions on their reports.

Georgson reported that the hot topic for this month in horticulture programming has been jumping worms. They are an invasive specie. A protocol was developed to enable the Master Gardeners to continue with their annual plant sale. LaVern spent a lot of time on the Grassland issue affecting our dairy farmers. Grasslands took about 1/3 of the producers back due to established contracts. We did lose one dairy farm in Jefferson County. Other dairies have said that you cannot increase milk production. There is a lot of milk available nationwide. Will be a hard year for dairy farmers. Georgson has also been working with a large poultry operation,

serving as part of the mentor team. The producer is looking at what can be done with chicken manure and how it can be marketed.

Jones stated that the month of April was filled with Youth Government Day, Jefferson County Connections Youth Conference, camp counselor training at Upham Woods and his attendance at a couple of conferences. The office is also starting to gear up for County Fair. The office is following up with everyone to ensure that they have MAQA certification.

Upcoming Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:

Future Agenda items: nEXT Generation; Farm Technology Days

Adjournment:

A motion was made Zastrow, seconded by Patrick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 a.m. Motion passes.

Note: After the meeting, Glenn Borland announced that today would be his last meeting. He is retiring from County Board service. He will attend the County Board Meeting tomorrow evening and then he will be retired.