

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
Minutes – May 3, 2005
NDSU Memorial Union – Fargo, ND

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met in the Peace Garden Room at the NDSU Memorial Union beginning at 8:00 a.m. on May 3, 2005. Members present: Ole Aarsvold, Tom Archbold, Keith Bjerke (for Joseph Chapman), John Bollingberg, Jerry Doan, Jerry Effertz, Ed Goerger, Carol Goodman, Ken Grafton, Duane Hauck, Rodney Howe, Patrice Lahlum (for Roger Johnson).

Minutes of the December 14-15 meeting were approved as distributed.

Chair Tom Archbold commented about his experiences during the legislative session and thanked SBARE members who supported the process, noting special thanks to Jerry Doan and Jerry Effertz for their many hours of legislative work. Archbold also thanked Representative Ole Aarsvold for his work on behalf of NDSU agriculture and SBARE and expressed appreciation to Aarsvold and Senator Christmann for their sponsorship of HB1264, which addressed SBARE member terms and reappointments.

Duane Hauck updated SBARE on the following:

1. Several extension staff and Rodney Howe participated in the Public Issues Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference was very useful and the group met people who could be helpful.
2. The Senate has created a 4-H Caucus to increase attention to 4-H activities across the country.
3. A search is in progress for the NW district director position vacated by Tom Hanson.
4. A livestock management/waste management extension group meets with others interested in that area of research twice a year. Plans are to submit an additional five-year grant proposal to continue work after the current grant expires in September of 2006.

Ken Grafton added his thanks for those who worked hard during the legislative session and stated that he believes this is the best budget for NDSU agriculture since 1983. He reviewed the budget approved by legislature.

Grafton called on Pat Berglund and she thanked SBARE for their support of the Northern Crops Institute during the session. Berglund stated she was pleased to have secured funding for a crop quality promotion specialist.

Ken Grafton announced that Ken Odde will be stepping down as chair of the animal and range sciences department, and also that Jim Richardson, chair of the soil science department, has accepted a position in Lincoln, Nebraska and will be leaving NDSU this summer.

Jerry Effertz emphasized the importance of the good work of SBARE many months ago when they established priorities, noting the priorities were sustained and the legislature did pay attention.

Tom Archbold stated there are many challenges and huge issues to address before the next legislative session, noting the need to find partners for the greenhouse project and for the Beef Center of Excellence.

Carol Goodman reported that the first class of Rural Leadership North Dakota is winding up with 26 participants. She added that SBARE needs to be included in the discussions and work to continue the program.

President Chapman and Vice President George Wallman joined the group to talk with SBARE about the selection of the new Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension. Chapman told SBARE that the pool was outstanding, but when he considered the breadth of the position and the direction he wanted to go, he selected D.C. Coston. He added that both Hauck and Fisher were extraordinary people. Chapman also told board members that the new vice president will be the president's designee on SBARE.

Wallman and Archbold, co-chairs of the vice president search committee, talked about the search process, agreeing with Chapman about great candidates, a good committee and the success of the process.

The board talked about the greenhouse project and the need to secure \$5 million. Jerry Effertz said a committee should be formed and everyone needs to begin thinking big and spreading the message that this project will benefit agriculture well beyond North Dakota. Jerry Doan added that the project needs a unified effort, and if the project is not supported and funded, NDSU could end up taking a backseat to other land-grant institutions.

Chair Tom Archbold reviewed the budget and talked about how the various increases/reductions and amendments to the executive recommendation happened, stressing the need to be flexible throughout the session to receive the best possible budget.

Ed Goerger said executive committee members working with the legislators should have the authority to make adjustments or changes to priorities on behalf of SBARE. Effertz agreed, but added the importance of not compromising too soon in the process.

Board members were asked to discuss distribution of the \$200,000 that the legislature allocated for operating and equipment needs.

Duane Hauck stated that SBARE needs the flexibility to negotiate the best possible budget. He added that no money was included in the budget for the Rural Leadership Program and because a five-year commitment has been made, extension needs to find funds to support the program for the next three years. Hauck said the funding will likely need to come from a position vacancy. He also reminded SBARE that extension will also be challenged to find additional dollars needed to fund the mandated salary adjustment on July 1.

Board members had a lengthy discussion about priority setting and funding for the experiment station and extension service with Carol Goodman stressing that there is no clearly defined way to bring the budgets forward in an equitable and balanced way.

Rod Howe made a motion to ask Duane Hauck and Ken Grafton to provide a proposal for allocation of the \$200,000 the legislature allocated for operating and equipment. Ed Goerger seconded the motion. Following discussion the motion passed.

Tom Archbold informed SBARE members that the contracting agency for the Agricultural Research Fund has requested a rate increase. Archbold suggested it may be prudent to review the terms of the contract and discuss the increase before contract renewal.

Jerry Effertz made a motion to ask the SBARE executive committee to meet with ag administrators to review the contract, discuss the rate increase, and come to the next meeting with a proposal. Carol Goodman seconded the motion, which passed.

Board members continue to be concerned with the decrease in gas tax refunds and talked about other possible funding sources for the Agricultural Research Fund.

Jerry Doan, Ed Goerger and Carol Goodman agreed to serve as a nominating committee and will bring recommendations for SBARE chair and vice-chair to the June 23 meeting in Fargo.

Jerry Doan recommended Chairman Tom Archbold send letters to key legislators thanking them for the efforts on behalf of SBARE and NDSU agriculture.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Recorded by Margaret Olson