

School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management & College of Natural Resources Development and Management

Board of Advisors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 a.m. at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Anchorage.

In attendance: Steve Ulvi, Marsha Melton, Nancy Welch, Robert Franklin, Paul Dinkins, Charlie Boddy, Stan Stephens, Chris Maisch, Jennifer Arseneau, Dr. Fred Husby, and Dr. Allen Mitchell.

Attending guests: Dr. John Fox, Dr. Charlie Knight, Dr. Don Carling, Dr. Roseann Leiner, Dr. Dot Helm, Neil Muirhead, and Amy Kenley.

Changes to Agenda: add Amy Kenley at 4:15p.m., move UA Budget up to 2:00 p.m. and add an update of the October meeting action items after the UA Budget discussion.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

An open discussion occurred after the Board reviewed the Oct. 1999 meeting minutes. The Board approved the amended minutes unanimously with the following changes:

Pg. 8 Correct spelling of first name for Marsha Melton.

Pg 5. Dr. Yarie- Some Forestry faculty members attended the National SAF conference.

Pg 10. Entomologist-Dennis Fielding.

Correspondence: An interest of appointment letter was received from Mike Hoyt. Mike has a forestry background and is interested in serving as a board member. Steve Ulvi will draft a response to Mike Hoyt. The letter will be placed on file in the Dean's office until there is an opening. The Board also received a letter from Charlie Boddy requesting a re-appointment.

Membership: Board noted that Marcia Ward was absent but recognized her intent to continue on the board. Letters of Interest are needed from Marcia Ward and Marsha Melton that will be forwarded to the Chancellor for approval. The roster will reflect that Marcia Ward, Marsha Melton, and Charlie Boddy's board memberships will expire on February 2002. Steve Ulvi will request appointment letters for the new members of the board. Board restated that all meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Chancellor and copied to the President & Provost.

Election: Steve Ulvi invited board members to express their interest in serving as next board president. Board members expressed their appreciation for Steve's hard work and dedication and requested that he continue to serve as president.

Fall Meeting: Next meeting scheduled for October 24- 25, 2000 in Fairbanks. Board proposed an increase in availability of the board to students. A proposal was made to host an afternoon student reception and to invite the Chancellor & President for lunch and to the student reception. Time will be scheduled on the afternoon of October 24th for graduate student project presentations. A student reception will also be held for Palmer students during the next meeting held in Palmer. Board would like to request a report on the student trip to Juneau at the next meeting. Interior legislators should be invited to the student presentations and reception.

Department Head Presentations:
Dr. John Fox:

All Depts.: Dr. Fox distributed an overview of his report to the board. SALRM received a \$300,000 Educational Equipment Grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education. The majority of the grant funds will be used to set up a student computer lab & classroom. Pending classroom availability, the lab is expected to be open by Fall of 2000. The SALRM faculty has discussed the establishment of a Masters of Natural Resources Management as a non-thesis program to meet the needs of students interested in advancing in or entering professional employment that does not include applied research. A proposal is being drafted to obtain seed money to start the program. All departments are working on self-study reports for the general University accreditation.

Forestry by Dr. Fox: The Forestry department recently received two new scholarship donations. The forestry option of the NRM B.S. degree will be up for SAF accreditation review (which does not include a site visit) in 2001. Dr. John Yarie is making excellent progress in Seattle and hopes to be back to work by April. Steve Ulvi will draft a letter to send regards from the board. Send correspondence to Dr. John Yarie, 5209 19th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 or call his cellular at (206) 295-9089.

Resources Management by Dr. Fox: Dr. Josh Greenberg returned from a special assignment at the University of Maine. Harry Bader continues his leave of absence studying at Yale and is expected to return in May. Student Representative, Jennifer Arseneau shared the student body's wishes to have the Outdoor Recreation position filled and the department strengthened.

Geography by Dr. Fred Husby: Status of RIP Positions. In 1998, Jay Mckendrick's position was approved for 6 months funding. The outdoor recreation position replacement was not approved that year. In 1999, the second geography position was approved but not the outdoor recreation position. The outdoor recreation position was a high priority in 1999 and remains so in 2000. The Board unanimously supports filling the outdoor recreation position above the 3rd geography position.

Plant, Animal and Soil Science by Charlie Knight:

We received a \$400,000 USDA grant to fund New Crop Opportunities. We are requesting \$30,000-50,000 for each project to fund salaries for graduate students to work for 2 years. The PASS department will work with Dennis Fielding with ARS to conduct grasshopper research at Delta. SALRM received \$200,000 to work on this project. Part of this money will fund the clearing and irrigation of 375 acres of land for crops. **Faculty vacancies:** Plant Breeder and Range Ecologist, the Reindeer position is currently being advertised, the Forage Scientist position is being advertised for the second time due to the candidates inability to obtain a visa, and our new Horticulturist in Palmer is Dr. Roseann Leiner.

New Faculty/Faculty reports:

Dr. Roseann Leiner: New Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Extension Horticulturist, a graduate of our M.S. Degree in Natural Resources Management and earned a Ph.D in Plant Pathology from Cornell. Dr. Leiner has been on the job for 5 weeks. She is interested in researching the cultivation of lettuce & vegetables and feels that her 25% extension assignment will allow her to meet with growers and determine the direction of her research. Dr. Leiner is currently teaching a Plant Pathology lab and is scheduled to teach Applied Plant Science in the fall. A discussion ensued between PASS faculty and the board on genetically modified vegetables.

Dr. Don Carling: Dr. Carling gave an overview of his current research projects including the: potato variety performance trials, the late blight project, and the potato chip trials. ASTF and Tim's Cascade Chips of Seattle are funding the potato chip study to see if Alaskan grown potatoes can produce a marketable chip. After six months of chipping on a weekly basis the chips are still chip-able. The study will continue next year contingent upon funding. Dr. Carling reported that no cases of late blight were identified in the Mat-Su Valley in 1999. Dr. Carling reviewed the Dept. of Transportation finalized the re-alignment route for Trunk road. The farm will lose about 10 acres with the new selected route. This is significantly less land than the original chosen route.

Dr. Dot Helm: Dr. Helm reviewed her reclamation projects around the state. Charlie Boddy explained how Dr. Helm's work assists Usibelli to stay in compliance with national regulations not specifically designed for Alaska. Stan Stephens offered to transport Dr. Helm to monitor Columbia Glacier's recession.

Palmer AFES Status by Dr. Allen Mitchell:

Dr. Mitchell distributed a Trunk road map of the proposed re-alignment and discussion continued. Nancy Welch inquired if we will regain easement land currently in use by the current road. Nancy will clarify with Kristi in the Land department at UAF. The USDA-CSREES Budget includes \$3.5 million dollars in special grants. This money is currently on hold because we cannot pay the overhead funding that is required by the University. Dr. Mitchell reviewed the results of the planning survey collected by the Palmer Research Center. The surveys were collected at the Ag Symposium, Greenhouse, and the Potato & Vegetable Grower's conferences. The board would like to see surveys collected from a wider audience. The Palmer Research Center will look at surveying the general public at the State Fair using prizes of a side of beef or a collection of Alaskan Grown foods. The board would also like to review priorities established by the board previously with what the public's selection of priorities indicated in the surveys. Dr. Mitchell discussed the USDA-CSREES requirement for multi-state research. He indicated the 25% requirement may not be enforced for all states including Alaska. (Aside: At the Western Director's Meeting in San Diego March 22-24, SAE Directors voted to enforce the 25% rule for all states)

UA Budget Discussion by Dr. Fred Husby:

SALRM is looking at level funding for the next year from the University. The only initiative requested in the UA budget was for three positions: Forest Recreation, Horticulture, & Soil Physics, however they did not make it into the budget. Currently we are recruiting for the forage position that we were unable to fill. The Range Management position and the reindeer position are open. The plant breeder was just approved to fill. Federal initiatives were revised several times after meeting with Nathan Butzlaff with Senator Steven's office and USDA staff. We submitted a request for \$2.8 million for 6 USDA positions for Integrated Pest Management/Crop Productions and \$40 million for a USDA building that would include a 3.5 million dollar greenhouse for four disciplines. President Hamilton removed the 40 million dollar building in hopes of funding a ship and other major capital projects for the university. The integrated pest management is listed under President Hamilton's 19th priority for program support. The fish waste utilization project/feed stuff is currently in the appropriations committee and wood products utilization and the grasshopper program have continued funding for FY01. Approximately \$9.8 million was requested for the Division of Agriculture. Senator Steven's office requested that the proposal be re-written to include proposals for AFES, particularly funding for Jennifer McBeath's potato project. Dr. Husby and Dr. Mitchell will rewrite the project. We have been working with the Institute of Arctic Biology to participate in joint multi-disciplinary research in Alaska. A brief discussion was held on budget strategies and supporting President Hamilton's request for University funding.

October Meeting Action Items:

Stan Stephens and the Alaska Farm Bureau are sponsoring four students to travel to Juneau for March 28th & 29th. Charlie Boddy will teach a legislative process seminar before the students leave for Juneau. This seminar will be held on the UAF campus and open to all students. Members of the Farm Bureau and Charlie Boddy will show students around the Juneau and the Legislature. Marsha Melton will coordinate travel arrangements for students. Board requested that student delegation report on the trip at the next Board of Advisors meeting. Charlie Boddy & Stan Stephens were unable to get an invite to the November 12, 1999 meeting of the President and Legislators. Rose's motion to have a draft resolution for adequate funding for the school: Charlie Boddy corresponded with Rose and Chris on the motion, but no action was taken thus far.

CNRDM Update by Dr. Fred Husby:

Chris Maisch and Steve Ulvi will represent the Board at the CNRDM meeting in Fairbanks on May 10, 2000. The college is continuing to work at changing protocol and procedures for the merger. The Provost & Chancellor are considering dissolving the college after seeing no cost savings from the merger.

Bob Trent is resigning as the Director of the School of Mineral Engineering as of June 30, 2000.

Amy Kenley: Amy, a Future Farmers of America student from Palmer made a short presentation on FFA and her Ag in the Classroom project. She also thanked the Board for the support that SALRM provides to the FFA.

Program Planning/Priorities: Board would like to maintain the priorities set last year. Plan of Work planning survey results will be reviewed and compared to the priorities set by the Board at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Board Web Page: The board discussed updated the Board of Advisor's web page. Nancy Welch suggested that the web site be updated to include: priorities and concerns of the board, meeting minutes, contacts for students to reach board members, and upcoming meeting agendas. Steve will work with Neil Muirhead to implement the update of the web page.

Forest Technician Program: Chris Maisch briefly discussed the Forest Technician A.A. program, formally offered in Kenai. The program is currently inactive but Dave Waldo and The Tanana Chiefs attempted to resurrect the program but were unsuccessful. A brief discussion was held regarding transferring the program's accreditation from UAA to UAF.

CNRDM Spring Banquet: The annual Spring Banquet is scheduled for April 28th in Fairbanks.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.