

State Board of Agricultural Research and Education
March 16, 2018
MINUTES

The State Board of Agricultural Research and Education met for a regular meeting via Zoom conferencing on March 16, 2018, starting at 7:30 a.m. By roll call, members in attendance were Mike Beltz, Mark Birdsall, Tracy Boe, Chris Boerboom, Dean Bresciani, Doug Goehring, Ken Grafton, Lance Gulleeson, Larry Hoffmann, Jerry Klein, Brian Leier, Sarah Lovas, Keith Peltier, JoAnn Rodenbiker and Dean Wehri. Absent: Richard Roland.

Chairman Keith Peltier called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and welcomed members. JoAnn Rodenbiker made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2018 SBARE meeting, seconded by Lance Gulleeson. Motion carried.

Administrative Update for the NDSU Extension Service (EXT):

Dr. Chris Boerboom reported that he met with the North Dakota County Commissioners Association board of directors and discussed the proposed revision to the Extension base policy. They passed a motion to “endorse the revised NDSU Extension Base Funding Policy for calendar year 2019, with the expectation that NDSU Extension, SBARE, and Counties will work to restore state funding so that a longer-term funding model that reduces property tax burden can be achieved.” Their goal is to seek assurance that there is no additional shift of state cost to the counties. All parties should make the case during the next legislative session to ensure this.

The recent Ag Coalition meeting included discussion related to the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), which coordinates advocating for federal Hatch dollars (AES) and Smith-Lever funds (Extension). In anticipation of the next Farm Bill, the APLU is supporting an initiative to increase the combined national request by \$200 million. North Dakota’s Senator Hoeven is the chair of the US Senate appropriations subcommittee on agriculture. The Ag Coalition voted to send a letter to Senator Hoeven, supporting the APLU initiative for increased support for ag research and Extension. Sarah Lovas made a motion that SBARE also send a letter to Hoeven voicing support, seconded by Larry Hoffmann. Motion carried.

Administrative Update for the ND Agricultural Experiment Station (AES):

Dr. Ken Grafton shared that the AES was partially involved in hosting a meeting in Fargo during a recent visit by Sonny Perdue, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, who was visiting North Dakota for Farm Bill discussions with agricultural stakeholders. The visiting delegation included North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp, U.S. Congressman Kevin Cramer, and several commodity group leaders. A successful round-table discussion was hosted at the AES Greenhouse; following this a luncheon discussion took place at Barry Hall between Perdue, Hoeven, Cramer, NDSU President Dean Bresciani and NDSU agriculture students from the Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Ag Ambassadors.

Extension Review Committee Final Report:

Mike Beltz made a motion to adopt and present report as given, seconded by Mark Birdsall. Motion carried.

Summary of the SBARE Extension Review Process:

Peltier asked members for feedback on a draft summary of the Extension Review Committee Final Report. Mike Beltz made a motion not to release the summary document at this time, seconded by Mark Birdsall. Members discussed the uses for a brief summary of the review process, looking to make the document educational and promotional in nature. At this time, it is incomplete and additional revisions may reduce confusion. It could succinctly explain the review process and resulting changes, in lieu of stakeholders reading through the entire Extension Review Committee Final Report. Stakeholders may find the full report lengthier than they have time to process, especially during brief meetings. After the full report is presented to Budget Section, members agreed this abbreviated document could be reworked. Peltier called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried.

Next steps:

The Governor’s office may release the budget guidelines in mid-April. SBARE will then work to refine their priority lists. Proposed budgets will be submitted to the Governor’s office mid-summer. This must also include routing them through the SBHE notification process on the way to the Governor. Peltier adjourned the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lorie Herbel.