

**Systemwide Extension Council**  
**Wednesday, June 1, 2016**  
**Pyle Center**  
**Madison**

**Present:**

Tiffani Taggart, Sage Goellner, Kathy Eisenmann, Phil Huelsbeck, Jason Hubbard, Erik Ernst, Dan Ervin, Stacey Binder, Judy Ballweg, Greg Hutchins, Dan Wanish, Phil O'Leary, Pam Nellen, Keri Wedige, Lyn Fleming, Lori Laboree, Tim Baye, Abbey Streicher, Pam Bowen, Molly Vidal, Aaron Brower

Via Phone: Esther Gieschen

**Called meeting to order at 10am and certified open meetings requirement – Tiffani Taggart, Chair**

- Tiffani opened the meeting by thanking Molly and Aaron for participating in today's meeting to provide an update on important UW-Ext items. Later today our conversation will shift to exploring -- "Shaping the Future of the Systemwide Extension Council".

**Welcome and Introductions – all**

**Chancellor and Provost Dialogue – Molly Vidal, Chief of Staff (on behalf of Chancellor Sandeen) and Provost Aaron Brower**

- UW System, including UW-Ext, is working on budget requests. We are in the early stage but a critical stage in making sure our story is told and heard along with the impact we have on the citizens of the state. Budgets will be presented during the August Board of Regents meeting. Be looking for the outcome of that meeting. Discussion followed.
- The UW-Ext Themes/Impact Initiatives will be used to tell our story to legislators and others. A user-friendly interface will be used to identify who we connect with to tell us their story .. postcard, website, data base. In June the Chancellor will be sending an email outlining uses of the Themes/Impacts including talking points, advertising kits, training opportunities, and ways of making this a positive campaign. Judy will forward this email on to SEC members. Discussion followed.
- Individual "mini bills" – there are currently no "mini bills" on the table. Discussion followed.
- Coop Ext nEXT Generation Recommendations – individuals assisting with this initiative include the sponsor team (Provost Aaron Brower, Vice Chancellor for Admin and Finance Steve Wildeck, Coop Ext Dean and Director Rick Klemme) along with Jay Rowan, nEXT Generation Project Manager (Huron Consulting Group), David Berard, nEXT Generation Project Leader (internal administrator and specialist), Pamela Seelman, Coop Ext Communication Director. The multi-member steering committee has been charged with developing 10-12 workgroups focused on how to implement the budget reduction plan. Aaron and others have completed 14 county visits thus far and all conversations have been productive. By January 2017 recommendations are due with implementation to begin by May/June. No job actions expected prior to February, 2017 or beyond. County offices and campuses will work together on continuation of programming. Discussion followed.
- Secretary of the Faculty and Staff search – 50% position description has been posted and has generated a small pool of qualified candidates. Erik Ernst is chair of the Search and Screen Committee. Discussion followed.
- Vice Provost search – process will begin mid-summer with an appointment by early fall. Discussion followed.
- Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) changes – more information can be found at these websites:

<http://news.wisc.edu/major-change-proposed-in-whos-considered-hourly/>

<http://www.ohr.wisc.edu/compensation/flsa.aspx#3>

The changes have been approved with an effective date of December 1. There is also a bill pending to reverse the decision. Affected individuals need to be notified. Jason Beier will provide updates as appropriate.

- Address the culture shift within UW-Ext:
  - The Learning Store has been renamed “The University Learning Store” – this is like Flex Option in the non-credit world. There’s a great website for easy access to content. Discussion followed.
  - Degree-Granting Authority of UW-Ext – Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approval is moving along. This degree is project driven, there are no semesters, faculty are members of the UW System. Financial aid approval will be pursued after the HLC approval has been awarded. Discussion followed.

Additional discussion followed around topics such as -- necessary resources/tool sets to continuing to develop/market programs, campus-specific frustrations. Molly will provide talking points.

**Discussion: “Shaping the Future of the Systemwide Extension Council” – Tiffani Taggart**

- The Provost along with the Council are exploring the purpose of SEC.
  - ✓ There’s a need for dialogue ... What is administration’s role and what do they hope to accomplish at each meeting?
  - ✓ There’s a need for dialogue ... What is SEC’s role and how can we assist administration in addition to what are our challenges?
  - ✓ Administration needs to be in the room for this dialogue. An invite with specific bulleted points.
  - ✓ Initiatives move so swiftly and SEC meets quarterly. That’s a challenge in providing assistance to administration.
  - ✓ An orientation to SEC (purpose, role, topics) is needed as we plan the September agenda.
  - ✓ SEC needs to identify successes, purpose (networking, collaboration), role of administration, and role of members.
  - ✓ The “Big 3” / take-a-ways from each meeting.
  - ✓ Executive Committee to develop more intentional/mutual interest agendas.
  - ✓ Other SEC members who are members of other governance groups indicated that the Provost typically attends their monthly meetings.
  - ✓ What are the actions/take-a-ways from each meeting?
  - ✓ SEC vs CEEC
  - ✓ As individuals we need to work on developing programs, marketing and packaging. We need to ask the Chancellor to remove the obstacles and provide resources. The rest is up to us.

Motion by Kathy Eisenmann that the Systemwide Extension Council Executive Committee take the Council’s original charge to UW-Ext administration, in the form of a letter, asking them what is needed from the Council being specific about outcomes, refining/evolving, and the value of the Council. Moving forward agendas should include specific topics of interest (2-3 per meeting) that provides dialogue around the table. Seconded by Erik Ernst. Motion carried.

Members suggested that this message be crafted now by the Chair and shared with the Executive Committee prior to sending to UW-Ext administration. An Executive Committee WisLine could be planned to talk through any edits. Judy Ballweg can assist.

Executive Committee will revisit the outcome of the letter in preparation for the September 7 meeting along with developing standardized agendas beyond September ... December, March and June.

**Members Reported the following:**

- Stressful workplace due to budget cuts
- nEXT Generation work underway in Coop Ext.
- campus-wide reorganization underway
- moving towards a 1-stop shop
- consolidating positions/departments
- losing positions
- productivity is lost due to having to do all aspects of programming
- lots of retirements and resignations
- struggling with the budget cuts and people leaving/not being replaced
- currently 4 departments without staff
- five retirements with no plan to replace these people
- never-ending business practices that are clumsy
- flexibilities are desperately needed
- lots of changes, downsizing
- Lowell Center is undergoing renovation and trying to stay competitive with other area lodging options
- undergoing regionalization
- no IT support
- lots of staff changes and no administrative support in the office
- concerned about the new FLSA ruling and how it will affect University Staff and/or Academic Staff
- we cannot continue to do more with less
- need to determine what to discontinue
- 4 colleges have been downsized to 3 and moved programs into the remaining 3 colleges
- there are human resources issues
- concerned about the taxing of program revenue
- where do we get marketing dollars to do our work?

**Approval of March meeting minutes**

- Minutes approved.

**Next Meeting:**

- Wednesday, September 7, Pyle Center, Madison  
Topics:
  - Financial Stress and the Chancellor's support of funding mechanisms
  - Marketing / Impact Initiative
  - Learning Store training

Adjourned at 2:50pm.

~minutes submitted by Judy Ballweg~