

Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council

April 26, 2021

Meeting minutes

Participants: Mitch Breunig, Dave Daniels, Aric Dieter, Dale Gallenberg, Angela James, Steve Kelm, Shelly Mayer, Tera Montgomery, Scott Rankin, Rami Reddy, John Umhoefer, Kate VandenBosch, Wayne Weber, Kent Weigel, Heather White, Kara Luedtke (filling in for Maria Woldt).

Absent: Maria Woldt

Zoom meeting

Heather White called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: (1.22.21 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Scott Rankin, Dave Daniels seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Heather provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

Council member updates: Beginning with Dave Daniels from the Farm Bureau, each council member provided an update on their work since the last meeting in January. Updates included employees returning to offices, the status of events, and generally trying to get back to “normal.” There were also updates around planting, weather conditions, milk prices, and ocean freight challenges—all items affecting the dairy industry.

University reps shared information about students returning to in-person instruction, requests for proposals, facility updates, and hiring Hub faculty.

Overview of dairy-related majors and offerings at the three campuses

Steven Kelm from UW-River Falls, Tera Montgomery from UW-Platteville, and Scott Rankin from UW-Madison provided an overview of dairy-related majors and activities for students at each of their institutions.

Slides overviewing undergraduate majors and opportunities will be provided to the council after the meeting for reference.

Campus updates

The three deans provided updates on requests for proposals and faculty positions. There is a lot of great collaboration happening between the three campuses and within each institution. An agreement was recently signed to give Hub faculty at Platteville and River Falls official appointments of record at Madison (locator institute affiliate status) to facilitate collaborations between campuses. River Falls has three new faculty starting this fall and will be hiring another soon. Platteville’s new Hub faculty are submitting grant proposals to get additional funding. Madison is increasing the number of people who are working on dairy through our requests for proposals and recruitment efforts are underway for four faculty positions.

The discussion included mention of the state budget process and the importance of Hub communications about outcomes. Communications will increase again when Maria returns from FMLA.

Advanced Dairy Management Academy (ADMA) proposal: Heather went over the proposal that was included in the meeting packet and the background on how we got to this point (build on existing programming, remain focused on research, avoid redundancy, etc.).

The proposal is to pair ADMA with the Dairy Summit as a day two optional activity that would provide greater depth into topic areas, attracting a different audience.

It would be great to have a central hub/library that is usable/accessible to everyone for research results (videos, presentation boards, etc.).

Consider calling it something other than “management” because that evokes feelings of business management. Advanced Dairy Research Academy (or innovation) was suggested. Need to be sure we are meeting the requirements outlined in the spending plan so will be sure to highlight the connection during launch if name is changed.

Heather and Maria will further develop the schedule for the first year (Fall 2021) when Maria returns and will reach out to Council members for additional feedback.

Scott Rankin made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John Umhoefer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:49 a.m.