

## **Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council**

**January 24, 2022**

Meeting minutes

Participants: Mitch Breunig, Dale Gallenberg, Steve Kelm, Tera Montgomery, Kate VandenBosch, Wayne Weber, Scott Rankin, Heather White, Maria Woldt, Angela James, Aric Dieter, Rami Reddy, Shelly Mayer, Dave Daniels, Kent Weigel, Karen Gefvert

Absent: John Umhoefer (at IDFA)

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Mitch Breunig called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes: (11.15.21 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Angela James, Shelly Mayer seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.**

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

**Council member updates:** Beginning with Angela James from DATCP, each council member provided an update on their work since the last meeting in August. All mentioned topics like supply chain, grant season, planning for in-person and virtual educational delivery, current ag/dairy friendly legislation, member programming and more.

University reps shared insight on courses and enrollment numbers. All campuses are planning for FY 23 funding decisions and RFP's are posted at all three campuses.

**Dairy Summit and Dairy Symposium recap and discussion:** Data from the Summit and Symposium as well as ideas for the future were presented to the council. Consensus was that the events were a success and there was continued excitement about the future of Hub activities. Summit is the public-facing event that will rotate throughout the state. It will continue to be hosted in November to make it accessible for farmers. Symposium is a Madison event that is open to researchers from all Hub campuses and will change to a spring timeline to make the event more assessable to faculty members. It will take place after commencement in May.

**Campus updates:** The three deans provided an update from their campus on Hub activities as well as overall operations, budget issues and campus instruction for Spring 2022. Each campus' response to masking, vaccines and COVID testing was also included in their comments. Each Dean reiterated enrollment numbers and projections for 2022, facilities upgrades at each campus as well as open leadership searches (Deans, Chancellor etc). Jay O. Rothman will take office as the next University of Wisconsin System President. Rothman, 62, is chairman and CEO of the law firm Foley & Lardner LLP in Milwaukee.

Related to the Hub, the following updates were given:

Madison:

- Funded Round 2 postdoctoral research fellowships
- Planning for Round 3 short-term, high impact – Due Jan. 28

- Planning for Round 2 faculty hiring – Three positions posted
- Five new faculty hired

Platteville:

- Developing agribusiness faculty position
- Hired dairy research technician- Natalie Jozik
- Hired Post-doc position- Dr. Risper Nyairo
  - Intersection of dairy farmland, water and food for local communities including the campus community
- Planning for Round 3 DI3 Fellows – Due March 4
- Three new faculty hired

River Falls:

- Interviewing for faculty in agricultural water management
- Interviewing for faculty in Agricultural atmospheric science and climate resiliency
- Planning for Round 3 faculty fellows – Due Feb. 18
- Planning for Round 3 equipment – Due Feb. 18
- Three new faculty hired

**Administrative update:** Heather White gave an administrative update about several key topics to the Hub. The Hub has been invited to give several public presentations to key groups of stakeholders. First on Jan. 11, Town and Gown @ CDR, then Jan 18, Posters in the State Capitol Rotunda, Jan. 18, Dairy Business Association, Dairy Day and finally on Jan. 27, DATCP board meeting.

Heather talked a bit about faculty hires and being able to recruit top candidates at all three schools.

The Hub is hosting a booth at several key dairy trade shows this spring. WFBF annual meeting this past December, Dairy Strong in Jan and PDPW in March (also featuring a poster session!). We do not have a booth at the Cheese Expo but plan to attend as registrants.

The Hub has two staff positions currently posted and accepting applicants. An administrative specialist will assist with financial tracking, awards and other broad duties, and a communications specialist to assist with stories and social media. Please help spread the word for these exciting career opportunities.

The last item that Heather shared with the group was about outcomes reporting. We ask recipients of Hub funds to complete an outcomes report twice per year. This is where we get our statistics about publications, presentations, patents and more. The process has been streamlined and the winter submission is due Feb 4.

**Discussion:** *“How do companies bring their ideas to the Hub to potentially develop research projects?”*

Based on significant interest from companies at the Dairy Strong conference, the group discussed how companies might get involved with Hub research. There are formal and informal ways for companies to engage with the Hub. Informally, they can email and be directed to faculty at each university doing work

in their area of interest. Formally, there could be a way for companies to submit research proposals, match funds etc..

All advisory council members agreed that it's great that so many companies want to get involved with the Hub. They also agreed that it's important the Hub staff stay focused on funding research, conducting outreach and engaging with stakeholders.

In addition to the more informal way of connecting companies with faculty, there is a section of the Hub website under development that will allow the public, companies and stakeholders to get involved in Hub projects recruiting participants and submit their ideas.

We should also plan to have feedback/input sessions at all events so that people can contribute.

**Future meetings:** The advisory council previously agreed to meet quarterly, and they would like to continue that frequency. The next meeting is April 27 at a TBD location, August 15 and TBD for November. Mitch suggested the Baraboo campus for the April meeting because it is more central and easier for everyone to get to.

**Shelly Mayer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Kent Weigel seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12 p.m.**