

Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council

April 27, 2022

Meeting minutes

Participants In-Person: Dave Daniels, Kent Weigel, John Umhoefer, Heather White, Mitch Breunig, Kate VandenBosch, Angela James, Shelley Mayer, Wayne Weber, Tera Montgomery, Elisabeth Berndt, Maria Woldt. Special guests: Bethany Senn, and Kaylee Reisgraf

John Umhoefer entered the in-person meeting late.

Participants on Zoom: Aric Dieter, Rami Reddy, Dale Gallenberg

Absent: Steve Kelm, Scott Rankin

In person at WFBF building 1241 John Q. Hammons, Madison WI & virtual Zoom

Mitch Breunig called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: (1.24.22 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Kent Weigel, Dave Daniels seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

Council member updates: Beginning with Mitch Breunig (on behalf of DBA) each council member provided an update on their work since the last meeting in January. All mentioned topics like waiting for more spring-like temperatures, milk prices and input costs, and legal challenges for farms in certain communities. There were positive comments regarding the success of DIH numbers and generated results. There are still supply chain challenges for industry and farmers, fuel costs are high. Virtual trainings are helping people learn and grow in careers.

Angela James from DATCP expressed hiring challenges at the agency and challenges with Avian Influenza for the state.

University reps shared departmental and programmatic updates. Growing interests in grant proposals and securing funding for research at each campus.

Campus updates: The three deans provided an update from their campus on Hub activities as well as overall operations. Leadership/administrative (dean, chancellor, provost) staffing changes were given by each dean. Hub-funded faculty overviews were provided for each campus.

Specific interest for investments in soil health alongside USDA, rural community development, and efforts on data analytics. A major key to success for the Hub is collaboration with university & stakeholders; increasing industry engagement is important to support continued connections. Funding outlooks for FY23 are on track with increased student enrollment in fall 2022.

Related to the Hub, the following updates were given:

Madison (Kate VandenBosch):

- Funded round 2 postdoctoral research fellowships
- Funded round 3 short-term, high impact grants
- Round 2 graduate student assistantships (due May 2)
- Round 2 faculty hiring in progress
 - Immunology
 - Dairy Food Science
- Five new Round 1 faculty hired started or starting soon

Platteville (Wayne Weber):

- Developing data science postdoctoral positions – challenge due to high demand
- Developing agribusiness faculty position – on schedule for search fall 2022
- Round 3 DI3 fellows (due June 1)
- Round 3 supplies and equipment (due June 1)
- Round 2 collaboration, mentored graduate students (due May 2) – appreciates infrastructure to move research forward
- Three faculty members hired

River Falls (Dale Gallenberg):

- Funded round 3 faculty fellowships for FY23 funding
- Funded round 3 supplies and equipment for FT23 operating and equipment
- Round 2 collaboration mentored graduate students
- Dairy pilot plant project – expected to be online fall 2022
- Planning for Dairy Summit, plan to showcase pilot plant project and other updates
- Five faculty hired
 - 5 positions planned – 4 ½ hires currently
 - 1 more to hire in animal management

Special guests: Three students gave 3-minute thesis presentations overviewing their research.

Bethany Senn is a PhD candidate in Lactation Physiology at UW-Madison. She is advised by Dr. Jimena Laporta. Bethany has been involved with Dr. Laporta's Hub-funded heat stress research.

Kaylee Reisgraf is a MS student in Dairy Science at UW-Madison and is collaboratively mentored with UW-River Falls. She is advised by Dr. Kent Weigel. Her grad assistantship is funded by the Hub.

Benjamin Iesalnieks is a MS student in Food Science at UW-Madison and is advised by Dr. Bradley Bolling. His grad assistantship is funded by the Hub,

Break for LUNCH

Administrative update: Heather provided a staffing update: welcomed Elisabeth Berndt, administrative specialist.

New faculty seminar series features new faculty from each campus. Includes bold ideas, current projects, and skills to collaborate in a 50-minute presentation. Will run during the academic year.

Hub events will be as follows: Summit in the fall (Nov 2022) – focuses on newest research, offered in hybrid format, rotates around the state. Symposium in the spring (May 2023) – focuses on most advanced research, also offered in hybrid format, stays in Madison.

FY22 preliminary outcomes: Heather reviewed some preliminary outcomes from the January mid-year reporting.

- 88 publications accepted or submitted
- 117 presentations given by Hub PI's
- 142 undergrads engaged in Hub-funded research
- \$2.3M leveraged funding for Hub researchers. Numerous federal grants awaiting funding decisions
- Approaching 'steady state' of structure and operating principles across three campuses for grants and faculty hiring. Applicants should expect calls to be announced and ready to apply for funding / anticipate the grant application process to move best, most innovative ideas.

Discussion: *"How is the Hub doing so far? What would stakeholders like to see more/less from the Hub?"*

The group discussed the Hub's progress and what can be done to improve and keep momentum moving forward. Overall, the group is very happy with what the Hub has accomplished but encouraged more time, effort, and resources to ensure that the people of Wisconsin can learn more about what the Hub is doing.

Shelly Mayer encouraged the Hub to put faces to the program; work with media to show "the what & the why?" John Umhoefer suggested to host partial open meeting so that anyone regardless of their location can get an update from the three deans and hear from special guests. Many agreed that the 3-minute presentations should be linked to the Hub website.

Angela from DATCP reminded the group that the advisory council members are a resource for Hub staff and always willing to partner.

Engagement in external events was discussed. Kent would like to encourage state level research and more lobbying on government fronts to create resiliency for the Hub, outlined by Mitch.

Overall, the council would like to keep building momentum and spread the word of the good work that the Hub is doing. The Hub is a source of good news during otherwise challenging times.

Future meetings: The next meeting is Monday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m. at UW-Platteville, Pioneer Farm, including a robot tour and taste testing Pioneer Sweets. The November 15 meeting will be held at 12pm at UW-River Falls in the Ag Science Building.

Dave made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Shelly Mayer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:13 p.m.