

## **Dairy Innovation Hub Advisory Council**

**August 15, 2022**

Meeting minutes

Participants In-Person: Mitch Breunig, Dale Gallenberg, Glenda Gillaspy, Randy Romanski, Tera Montgomery, Chad Zuleger, Ryan Pralle, Karen Gefvert, John Umhoefer, Kent Weigel, Heather White, Maria Woldt, Jori Skalitzky, Elisabeth Berndt, Chuck Steiner, Andy Buttles. Special guests: Zifan Wan, Erin Kammann, Lucy Kniebuehler, Ryan Pralle, Heidi Zoerb

Proxy Participants: Chad Zuleger (DBA), Karen Gefvert (WFBF), Andy Buttles (PDPW)

Participants on Zoom: Steve Kelm, Scott Rankin, Karen Gefvert

Absent: Rami Reddy, Aric Dieter, Dave Daniels, Shelly Mayer

In person at Pioneer Farm, Ag Technology Center, UW-Platteville, 29200 College Farm Road, Platteville, WI & virtual Zoom

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

**Approval of Minutes: (4.27.22 meeting) A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tera Montgomery, Kent Weigel seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.**

Mitch provided the meeting overview and welcomed everyone.

**Council member updates:** Beginning with Mitch Breunig, each council member provided a working update from their areas/departments since the April 27 meeting. Industry/association representatives conveyed that crop and fall harvests seem to be on target; milk numbers are up, and inflation has hit high levels. The restaurant/food service industry is taking a back seat to retail.

Randy Romanski from DATCP shared the continued staffing challenges, including several leadership staff changes. Trade missions to the UK have been taking place to stimulate additional opportunities for Wisconsin dairy. The agency has increased funding for dairy processor grants. DATCP is also working to fund and initiate agricultural exports, returning for another trade mission next year. From WFBF and DBA, there was emphasis on best practices for sustainability and continued focus on local ordinances efforts among dairy farmers and DIH stories were conveyed to be timely and helpful to the connections. Groups are focused on post primary and upcoming election endorsements as it relates to agriculture.

University reps shared departmental updates, including some anecdotes about enrollment. Faculty hires in departments are going well with very little faculty turnover. Faculty projects are generating DIH leveraged funds for larger grant studies.

**Administrative update:** Heather White provided an update on faculty hiring/onboarding, continued cycles of requests for proposals, fiscal year closeouts and financial tracking, and overall FY22 Hub accomplishments.

Budgetary insights (projections vs. current expenses) are consistent with the funding plan. Faculty numbers are lower due to hiring freeze by provost and arrival delays to campus due to lingering effects of pandemic. Funding has been redirected to grad students, research projects, and post docs.

FY22 overall Hub contributions are invested in current researchers across all programs. Priority areas are balanced with exception of farm business area which has smaller start-up packages with social scientists. Funding equal numbers/scale of projects and hiring faculty is similar across priority areas. Hub is committed to recruiting top talent and leveraging Hub funds.

New Hub faculty searches are competitive and international. Some faculty start-ups include infrastructure, facility, financial commitments, lab renovations, and flex funds for research associates. Hub funds represent 30 to 45% of the total non-salary start-up funds. Hub faculty hiring timelines include unknowns with many moving parts; salaries are continuous while start-up packages are intended to be spent within three years.

Program accomplishments to date:

- More than 130 funding awards
- 16 faculty searches:
  - Eight at UW-Madison (including two in progress)
  - Three at UW-Platteville
  - Five at UW-River Falls
- Approaching steady state of structure and operating principles
- Collaborative initiatives across the three campuses
- Engaged advisory council and three steering committees

FY22 reaching steady state:

- 183 publications accepted or submitted from Hub researchers
- 291 presentations given by Hub researchers
- 300 undergraduates engaged in Hub-funded research and infrastructure
- 121 graduate students and postdocs engaged in Hub-funded research and infrastructure
- \$4.1M in leveraged funding for Hub researchers. Additional federal grants awaiting funding decisions

Randy encouraged Hub leaders to use DATCP and other external stakeholders as resources during the recruiting process which has added value during interviews and continued support.

**Upcoming Hub events:** Maria provided an overview of the Hub functions through the end of 2022 into 2023.

- Aug. 24 – Tour of Mystic Valley Dairy – Sauk City
  - 3 p.m. Tour
  - 4-5:30 – reception, On the Rox

- October 2-7, 2022 – World Dairy Expo (Alliant Energy Center) – Madison  
Each campus hosts gatherings for current students, alumni, and stakeholders/partners  
Attendance is encouraged by Hub, exploring options for further involvement and opportunities
- Nov. 15 – Meeting, reception, and tours – River Falls  
12 p.m. – Advisory council lunch and meeting  
4-6 p.m. – Reception, tours of AgSci building projects, funded by Hub
- Nov. 16 – Dairy Summit – River Falls  
In-person and fully virtual, University Center, UW-River Falls  
Feat. new projects  
Target audience: industry constituents

*\*\*Registration is open, [dairyinnovationhub.wisc.edu](http://dairyinnovationhub.wisc.edu)*

- May 18, 2023 – Dairy Symposium – Madison  
In-person and fully virtual, Pyle Center, UW-Madison  
Feat. most advanced stage research  
Target audience: academicians. Includes internal groups

**Special guests:** Two individuals delivered presentations summarizing their Hub research. Additionally, an undergraduate student provided a narrative in relation to Hub activities.

Dr. Zifan Wan is an assistant professor of dairy food science and management within the School of Agriculture at UW-Platteville. She is a Hub-funded faculty.

Erin Kammann is a MS candidate in Dairy Science at UW-Madison. She is advised by Dr. Heather White (UW-Madison) and Dr. Ryan Pralle (UW-Platteville). Her graduate student assistantship is funded by a CERANR grants with additional support from DIH funded supplies and equipment.

Lucy Kniebuehler is a senior in Dairy Science at UW-Platteville. She works closely with Tera Montgomery on Hub related activities including research and herd management.

**Break for LUNCH. Included Pioneer Sweets ice cream tasting.**

**Tera Montgomery provided an overview and renderings of the forthcoming Pioneer Farm Dairy Pilot Plant.**

**Campus updates:** Campus leaders 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.

Updates related to the Hub were given by the following leaders.

*Madison (Heather White on behalf of Glenda Gillaspy)*

- Two rounds of postdoctoral research fellowships
- Three rounds of short-term, high impact grants
- Two rounds of capacity-building equipment
  - Interest in infusing research money in faculty currently working on Hub funded projects
- Two rounds of graduate student assistantships
- Two rounds of faculty hiring
- Public engagement with agriculture – in progress
- Seven new faculty hired - started or starting soon
  - Lautaro Rostoll Cangiano, Immunology
  - Margaret Kalcic, Land and water stewardship
  - Hilario Mantovani, Rumen microbial physiology
  - Charles Nicholson, Dairy economics
  - Joseph Pierre, Human health and nutrition
  - Gulustan Ozturk, Dairy food science
  - Xia Zhu-Barker, Land and water stewardship

Dean Glenda Gillaspy introduced herself and provided her initial impressions for the Hub. Her first day assuming the deanship of CALS (UW-Madison) was Aug. 4. Comments regarding the Hub's innovation to drive education were well received as well as the wholistic viewpoints connecting basic science to real world problems. Focusing on land and water stewardship in conjunction to animal welfare is high priority.

*Platteville (Chuck Steiner)*

- Three rounds of D13 faculty fellows
- Three rounds of supplies and equipment
- Two rounds of collaboratively mentored graduate students
- Hired Natalie Jozik as Hub funded dairy research technician
- Developing data science postdoc position
- Developing agribusiness faculty position
- Three faculty hired + postdoctoral scholar
  - Ryan Pralle, Ruminant Nutrition
  - Joseph Sanford, Agricultural and biological systems engineering
  - Zifan Wan, Dairy food science and management
- One postdoctoral scholar
  - Risper Nyairo, Environmental sciences and society

### *River Falls (Dale Gallenberg)*

- Three rounds of faculty fellowships
- Three rounds of supplies and equipment
- Two rounds of collaboratively mentored graduate students
- Dairy pilot plant project
- Added student lab capacity
- Planning for Dairy Summit
- Five faculty hired
  - Kate Creutzinger, Animal welfare
  - Grace Lewis, Dairy processing
  - Luis Pena-Levano, Regional economic development
  - Susanne Wiesner, Atmospheric science and climate resiliency
  - Bahar Hassanpour, Agricultural water management

**New leaders update:** Maria and Heather recognized leadership changes on each campus. Hub faculty director and program manager are able help Hub campus' organize visits and tours during transition.

### UW-Madison

*Glenda Gillaspy, CALS Dean*  
*Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor*

### UW-Platteville

*Chancellor search, Tammy Evetovich, interim*  
*Wayne Weber, interim Provost*  
*Chuck Steiner, interim BILSA Dean*

### UW-River Falls

*Maria Gallo, Chancellor*  
*Dean Olson, interim CAFES Dean*

**Annual report update:** Maria provided a broad look into the 2022 annual report. Roll-out is planned for October, which will include a shorter executive summary, searchable database, media release, and submission to campuses and JFC.

### Features of the report:

- 8 new faculty profiles
- 7 research highlights
- Data points from FY 22
- As reported by researchers
- Program stats
- Historical information
- Connections to stakeholders
- Financial overview

Members of the advisory council will be called upon to provide feedback. An information sheet for general public and non-agricultural counterparts will be available. Additionally, the Hub will print materials for distribution upon request.

**Discussion:** Mitch opened the forum for discussion with remaining time of the meeting.

The group discussed the importance and the need to build a pipeline of interest to attract new dairy/food science majors to dairy studies and the industry. Finding early interest to build a foundation is desired among the group.

Mitch encouraged leaders to engage with high school youth prior to entering higher education to gain and retain interest in a career in dairy and related fields. The group brainstormed ways to engage with recruiters and how to spread the news of the Hub when talking to impressionable students. This seems to be an ongoing conversation.

John suggested a Hub video series to show young students (grade school to high school) to generate interest in dairy. Producing different content appropriate for different audiences would elevate the narrative of the Hub. Content source delivered directly from annual report.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tera. Randy Romanski seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:06 p.m.**

After the meeting, Hub advisory council members, faculty, staff and UW-P regional advisory council representatives were invited to tour the farm and milking robot at Pioneer Farm.

**Future meetings:** The next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 15, 12 p.m. at UW-River Falls, Ag Sciences Building prior to the Dairy Innovation Hub Dairy Summit on Nov. 16. The first meeting in 2023 will be January 23 using Zoom.