

**Plant Science Research Greenhouse (PSRG) Facility
Faculty Oversight Committee Meeting
January 26, 2023, 1:00 pm**

Present: Hannah Burrack (ENT), Jeremy Johnson (ENT), Linda Hanson (USDA), Mary Hausbeck (PSM), Roberto Lopez (HRT), Carolyn Malmstrom (PLB), Cody Keilen (MSU Plant Growth Chambers), Chrislyn Particka (PSRG)(Director), Erik Runkle (HRT)(Co-Chair), Thomas Sharkey (BMB, PRL)(CoChair)

Absent: Eric Olson (PSM), Bjoern Hamberger (BMB)

1. The meeting began with a discussion of the renovations to the CIPS range greenhouses (numbers 47-52) that will take place this May through October. Over the past two summers, significant renovations have been completed in these houses using funds from the \$4M allocated to the greenhouses by the university; during summer 2021 the floors and drainage were repaired, and during summer 2022 Wadsworth Seed environmental control systems were installed. LEDs were also installed in some houses.

With the remaining money from the allocation, plus extra funds from the greenhouse budget, AgBioResearch, the College of Natural Science, and the Vice President for Research and Innovation, renovations of these greenhouses will be completed by fall 2023. The greenhouses will be outfitted with all-new acrylic glazing, vents, motors, fans, evaporative cooling pad systems, etc., making them nearly brand-new. Having nearly 25% of the facility fully renovated by fall will help ease space constraints during larger-scale state-supported renovations.

2. This led into a discussion of the state-supported project. Many specific topics were covered, including the expected timeframe, the desired number/size of air-conditioned greenhouses, and the need for biosafety level (BSL) 2 and 3 greenhouses. Linda Hanson and Carolyn Malmstrom offered to contact colleagues at OSHA and APHIS regarding BSL regulations. The committee also discussed the need for extra funding beyond what is provided by the state. Chrislyn, Tom, and Erik reported that the university development directors are compiling information about potential funders and compelling stories that can be leveraged to gain interest in the project.

3. The meeting concluded with a discussion of the sublet system. The sublet system was initially developed for programs that conduct research in the greenhouse in winter months and move out in the summer to conduct research in the field. Many of these programs need to have the same greenhouses each winter. When a house is in the sublet system, the primary user of that house continues to pay the \$75 monthly section charge. If the house is used by another lab, that group pays the square footage portion of the monthly charge. Before the subletter moves in, the primary user sets the date by which the subletter must move out.

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The sublet system has worked very well for most users, but there are currently several greenhouses have been in the sublet system (e.g., not used by the faculty to which they are assigned) for over a year, and other houses that are empty but not in the sublet system. Chrislyn stated that she understands users might be holding onto unneeded greenhouses, given that space was quite challenging to obtain under the prior management model; however, she has always been able to find users space when it has been requested.

Retaining unneeded greenhouses is problematic, because during the upcoming several-year period of extensive renovations, when large percentages of the greenhouse facility will not be available for use, it will be more difficult to meet all users' needs if greenhouses are not being fully utilized.

The committee discussed potential solutions, including a project-based space assignment system. Some committee members expressed concern at fully moving to this sort of system, and instead recommended a hybrid approach. Chrislyn will connect with colleagues at other universities and develop potential new procedures for space assignment that the committee will then review.

In the meantime, greenhouses users are highly encouraged to contact Chrislyn when greenhouses are not being used.

Minutes drafted by Chrislyn Particka and reviewed by Erik Runkle and Tom Sharkey