

## **PSS Staff Meeting**

September 12 and 13, 2022

### I. Congratulations

Staff Development Awards: Sara Carter and Matthew Allen received funds to attend European Weed Science Conference in Greece in June

### II. Staff/Faculty Position Updates

- a. Staff hires – Kenneth Clayton (Turf Extension Assoc. – Ray Smith); Jason Travis (Integrated Pest Management – Travis Legleiter)
- b. Faculty hires: Lauren Brzozowski (Asst. Prof. Breeding/Genomics)
- c. Staff departures – Andrea Drayer, Claire Venard, Sean Wood, Rebecca Ramsey, Manohar Chakrabarti, Bo Tao
- d. Faculty departures – Wei Ren, Josh McGrath
- e. Staff changes – Gene Hahn and Jenni Fridgen will report to Edwin Ritchey; Ann Freytag reports to Tim Phillips; Matthew Piersawl reports to Chad Lee; Dalton Mertz reports to Cam Kenimer; Philip Shine reports to Bill Bruening. Pamela Obura recently became full time research analyst for Chris Shepard and Anthony Clark is reporting to Lauren Brzozowski. Jim Nelson is taking over Claire’s chemical/lab safety responsibilities and Bill and Cam will temporarily take over the Soy Bean VT program and merge with their variety trial programs.
- f. Faculty posting for Soil Microbiologist is active. The positions for Extension Soil Science and Molecular Weed Biology are approved and will be moving through soon. Two additional positions (Ag/Environmental Informatics and Plant Reproductive Biology) are in the approval process.
- g. Staff searches: Luke Moe is working to replace Audrey Law; Tomo is working to replace Anthony Clark; Brad is working to fill the Extension Associate and Lab Tech Sr. positions formerly held by Andrea Drayer and Roger Rhodes, respectively. There is uncertainty on the whether Vickie Witcher’s and Shawn Woods’ positions will be re-filled.

### III. Budget

- a. This is the first year the PSS department has not experienced a significant cut
- b. There is still uncertainty on how the Dean will manage open faculty lines
- c. Departmental allowances/incentives will be released soon. Note that 12 programs overspent their allowances this year. This may be due to delay in Concur approvals from central campus or vendor price changes.

### IV. Updates – General

- a. Undergrads
  - i. AES program recruited 7 new students this fall. Annual enrollment will need to double this to become a stand-alone degree program;
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of seniors in the program graduated in May;
  - iii. Certificate in Hemp Science is active.
- b. Farm Updates
  - i. North Farm (NF) Service Center – was funded by motor pool and is currently understaffed so outlook remains uncertain
  - ii. NF auction was successful selling 50 items for ~\$20K
  - iii. NF mural is completed
  - iv. UKREC has some temporary structures but the rebuild is very slow and frustrating
  - v. UKREC irrigation/combine service has been dissolved

- vi. RCARS flood damaged buildings are scheduled for repair/renovation
- c. Business Office - no updates but a reminder that central has been slow in processing Concur reports
- d. Other news/updates:
  - i. Freezer challenge – Ann Freytag reported that it was a worthwhile effort to reduce energy consumption
  - ii. COVID: boosters vaccines are available
  - iii. Lab inspections are completed. Please finalize any outstanding items and keep chematix inventory up to date.
  - iv. Holiday Luncheon – polled attendees on whether to bring this back or continue with a smaller gathering and swag. Results favored hosting the luncheon. Stay tuned for more details.
- e. Reminders
  - i. Staff Professional Development Fund
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual PSS Round-up is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM in the PSB Courtyard
  - iii. Websites are migrating to new Drupal format in November. If you are a website manager, make sure you get your request into Ag Comm soon.
  - iv. 3MT is being held Oct 21<sup>st</sup>.