

**University of Wisconsin Education, Extension and Agriculture Committee**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2016**  
**James P. Coughlin Center – Volunteer Room**

**Members Present:** Tom Widener, Tom Snider, and George Scherck.

**UW-Extension Staff:** Chris Kniep, Mandi Dornfeld, Darrell McCauley, Catherine Neiswender, Sarah Thompson, Kayla Oberstadt, Chad Cook, Kim Miller, and Kris Soper.

**Others Present:** Chancellor Cathy Sandeen.

**Meeting called to order** at 11:55 a.m. by Tom Widener.

Chancellor Sandeen provided an overview of the UW-Extension budget cuts: \$3.6 million to the base budget. This cut is approximately 80 position at all three levels of the organization – county staff, specialist staff, and administrative staff. Sandeen described the reorganization process, referencing the proposal shared on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This proposal is the basis for the steering committee and sub-committee work. Currently, nominations for the sub-committees are being sought, and the Chancellor continues to gather feedback via a web link.

The three nEXT Generation project sponsors are Aaron Brower, *Provost and Vice Chancellor, UW-Extension*, Rick Klemme, *Dean and Director, Cooperative Extension*, and Steve Wildeck, *Vice Chancellor, UW-Extension and UW Colleges*. Sandeen expressed concerns related to the 2017-19 Biennium Budget and possible additional cuts to the UW-Extension budget. County cluster configurations have been established for the committees to work with. Sandeen indicated compelling reasons to change the configuration would be considered as the committees worked, but a starting point was needed.

Committee/Staff discussion points included:

- Hiring plans when retirements and resignations occur – decisions are made by Regional Directors and the Dean
- County positions – linked to proportionality of staffing as described in the Counties Association article
- Multi-county structure – discussed rationale/criteria for clusters
- Role of the county department head in Winnebago County
- Impact of nEXT Generation on staff as they currently work
- Winnebago County UW-Extension office/JP Coughlin Center as a catalyst for county work – location, staff, programs

Chancellor Sandeen shared her thanks to the Extension Committee for their strong support of UW-Extension and complimented staff on their work. She also encouraged those in attendance to continue sharing ideas and suggestions.

**Next Meeting:** Next regular committee meeting will be held Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 with the current board members.

**Adjourned:** Scherck moved to adjourn; seconded by Snider. Motion carried **3-0**, 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Chris Kniep