

## HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

### Minutes of the meeting of the Farm Strategy Committee held on 24 May 2017 at 10.00am in the Boardroom.

**Present:** Dr D Llewellyn Chairman  
Mr C Bailey  
Mr M Roach  
Dr J Donaldson  
Mr C Ellis  
Mr R Hooper  
Mr S Kirby  
Prof P Mills  
Miss G Smith  
Dr A Wilcox

**In attendance:** Dr C E Baxter Clerk to the Governors  
Mr R Heath

**Apologies:** Mrs L Furey

Members were reminded to update their entry in the Register of Interests as necessary.

#### 16/21. Minutes

Approved: the minutes of the Farm Strategy Committee Meeting held on 2 February 2017 (16/11-16/20)

#### 16/22 Matters Arising

Received: a report from the University Secretary.

- Noted:
- i) that the requested amendment to the minutes had been made;
  - ii) that work was on-going to complete the Farm Enterprise Costing Model. The aim was to use data to create a model to be utilised across all enterprise units. A first draft will be available for comment at the next Committee meeting and it is anticipated that the model will be in operation for the beginning of the 2017-18 financial year;  
**RH/RR**
  - iii) that the bund work around the slurry tanks had now been completed;
  - iv) that plans for the capital works are now in place and agreed with Finance for the Pig-Unit development. A press release for the Silcock Scholarships will shortly be released focusing on researchers to secure PhD studentships;
  - v) that plans to redevelop the existing beef unit facility are in hand and have been agreed with the Farm Manager.
  - vi) that following a meeting with Liz Furey and Kim Wolstencroft, Andy Wilcox had confirmed that resources are needed to redevelop the structure of the Farm Information database. Discussions about the Gatekeeper software would need to be progressed between SK/LF & IT team members. It was suggested the DELTA Project may be able to help.  
**AW**
  - vii) that Carwyn Ellis confirmed the tender for the CIEL beef facility plans had been accepted and interviews for the Professor in Beef Production vacancy were set for 12<sup>th</sup> July;  
**CAE**

Agreed: that proportions of fixed costs used in the Farm Enterprise Costing Model would need to be agreed at the beginning of the new financial year. These costs could then be reviewed in 12 months and any reported changes agreed at that stage. **RH/SK**

#### 16/23 Risk Management

Received: a report from the University Secretary on risk items monitored by the Committee.

- Noted:
- i) that breathing apparatus kit had been procured with face fitting for both Farm animals and CERC staff;
  - ii) that the new poultry biosecurity fencing plan had been agreed;
  - iii) that regular Farm staff meetings are taking place to ensure all staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and that training needs were being identified;
  - iv) that appropriate health and safety notices are being maintained to remind visitors of regulations whilst on site.

#### 16/24 Farm Management Accounts (Grass and Arable)

- Considered:
- i) the Farm Management accounts (Grass and Arable) for the period to 30 April 2017.
  - ii) a progress report on the annual operating plans for the University Farm.

- Noted:
- i) that the farm accounts report a favourable variance of £42,230. Milk sales are £15.7k ahead of target due to an increase in the budgeted sale price;
  - ii) that crop sales are below budget primarily due to timing;
  - iii) that the annual forecast has been updated to £108k before support for tuition;
  - iv) that the dairy unit had reported confirmed an excellent fertility performance and is operating well despite being under-staffed. Production has remained constant. Overall herd health remains good with a slight improvement in lameness;

#### 16/25 Pig Unit

- Considered:
- i) the Pig Unit accounts for the period to 30 April 2017.
  - ii) a progress report on the annual operating plan for the Pig Unit.

- Noted:
- i) that the Pig Unit was currently £68k ahead of budget due to the high price of pork and £22k below budget due to low stock numbers at present;
  - ii) that due to research into reduced antimicrobial usage 'Pig World' have an article in production. Richard Hooper would investigate the potential for wider press coverage;

**RH**

- iii) that pork prices were increasing post Brexit vote;
- iv) that further skills training and work experience opportunities would be offered for the autumn term.

**16/26 Animal Production Welfare and Veterinary Science/Crop and Environmental Science Departments - Operating Plans 2016/17**

Received: a progress report on the Annual Operating Plans for the APWVS Sheep Unit, APWVS Beef Unit and CERC.

- Noted:
- i) that the APWVS Sheep Unit continued to support teaching together with 5 students and 15 HRP students resulting in all KPIs being on target or exceeded;
  - ii) that despite the disruption of the new building the Beef Unit is on target for HRP involvement and an increased number of classes were accessing the facility;
  - iii) that new cattle were planned for the autumn sourced from calves and external sales. The Farm Manager would be kept informed. **RH**
  - iv) that land area for CERC trials had been agreed with Scott Kirby;
  - v) that Grace Smith is in discussion with various seed companies in an effort to gain sponsorship for the trial plots.

**16/27 Research Projects**

Received: an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on new/current research projects involving the Farm.

- Noted:
- i) that of a total of £1.77million of research income, £30k was directly farm related;
  - ii) that pipeline Smart Dairy research would be progressed after a settling in period of time for the new SMART Dairy herd.

**16/28 Any Other Business**

No matters were raised.

**16/29 Date of Next Meeting:** 12 October 2017