

Food & Nutrition Innovation Institute Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017 365 Haecker Hall

Participants:

Kumar Mallikarjunan, Tonya Schoenfuss, Len Marquart, Keagan Ringling, Barrie Froseth, Lynne Osterman, Rod Larkins, Lolly Occhino, Carrie Rigdon, Serpil Metin, Joel Reiman, Nancy Huls, Jeff Stamp, Katy Fischgrabe, Julie Simonson, Karen Wilder, Troy Hutchinson, Gabe Gusmini, Kathy Roland, Constance Carlson, John Castillo, Jim Costello, Jennifer Brixius, Chris Vandongen, Sara Cannon, Ray Miller, Jodi Nelson, Therese Liffbrig, and Rusty Nelson & Rachel Reisig via videoconference

Introductions:

Ray Miller introduced the Pilot Plant and described the award winning Baiser du Neige cheese and PJ Fleck “Row the Boat” Ice Cream creations from the Pilot Plant. Jodi Nelson described the dairy and meat store in the department, and available products. CFANS Dean Mike White stopped in to welcome and thank participants.

Summary Points from the meeting:

The participants agreed on the need to define the institute in terms of structure, function, and intellectual property. This meeting was a starting point to define the broader terms and specific focus opportunities of our work. More questions were raised, indicating the need for more input and answers before we move ahead. Some of the questions that need further discussion include the outputs from the institute and defining the success of the institute.

Kumar proposed that the Institute would initially be housed in FSCN, led by a director who could be a tenured faculty member. Stakeholder ideas about how to structure the institute will be considered once gathered. The organization will be dynamic to incorporate future changes. The department acknowledges the assets attendees bring to the table. Participants agreed to share ideas, and build the network with the U as the focal point to support innovation. Participants supported the notion of becoming the hub of food, ag, and nutrition innovation, and noted that there is already local demand for services like the Sensory Center.

It was generally agreed by participants that FSCN and stakeholders need to agree on mutual expectations. It was noted that we need to have a focus, and that focus will become clearer as we move forward. The institute can develop champions; and these leaders will be able to generate energy to move forward.

The areas should include education, research, and extension. Students are an integral part of the institute. Moving into systems thinking, creating students who have deep technical knowledge and can work all over the supply chain becomes important to create real impact. There is a newly created student group (Student Ambassadors for Food, Health, and Culture) and their work will help us advance our goals and reach out to students throughout the college.

To move forward with this initiative, the group agreed to conduct a survey with specific questions and plan to meet again in early January and decide the path forward.

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