NC 1200 Regulation of Photosynthetic Processes

November 23, 2013; University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Members present: Julie Stone, Bob Spreitzer, Don Weeks (Nebraska AES); Tom Sharkey, Christoph Benning (Michigan AES); Tom Okita (Washington AES); Steve Huber (Illinois ARS); Karen Koch (Florida AES); J.C. Jang (Ohio AES); Rob Aiken and Vara Prasad (Kansas AES).

Annual reports received from the above as well as members not present, including Rodermel (Iowa AES); Edwards (Washington AES); Cushman (Nevada AES); Gillaspy (Virginia AES); Giroux (Montana AES); Below and Gentry (Illinois AES) and Li (Mississippi AES).

Guests present: Felix Fritschi (Missouri AES), Ray Chollet (former member), Shelby Bickford (Nebraska AES).

Nebraska AES Dean and Director Archie Clutter welcomed the committee, outlining the extensive planning process providing structure to an extensive faculty recruitment effort, recently completed.

Members presented and discussed current research findings, addressing all four objectives. Discussion centered on interpretations, insight and additional avenues of inquiry. Active collaboration among members address investigation of TALEN's (Weeks, Spaulding, Huber, Salvucci), Rubisco activase (Salvucci and Spreitzer), soybean stress response (Prasad and Fritschi), Isoprene biosynthesis (Sharkey and Fritschi), and photosynthate partitioning (Benning, Kramer and Sharkey). Informal contributions of the committee to professional development include an active Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at Nebraska—leading to graduate student recruitment, and the recent selection of Rebecca Roston (Benning's lab) to faculty at University of Nebraska.

Following presentations, business meeting considered the request for membership of Felix Fritschi, with unanimous approval. Active participation in annual meetings was discussed—including the practice of encouraging inactive members to evaluate their continued affiliation at five-year renewal. The 2014 meetings (to be hosted by Kansas AES) will involve a mid-term report, to be submitted to NIMSS. The current project is approved through 2017. A conditional offer for hosting 2015 meetings was forwarded by Huber, subject to support from Below and Gentry (Illinois AES).

Meeting adjourned.

Rob Aiken, Kansas AES