The SARC Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:23 AM by Chairman Terral Balzer.

Members Present: Ken Kephart, Terral Balzer, Mike Greytak, Rodney Jabs, Carter Miklovich, Dennis Newton, Tony Zinne, Kim Nile, Greg Lackman, Dave Kelsey, Mike Bernhardt, Neal Fehringer, Walt Hudyma, Tom Fischer.

Members Excused: Glen Leonhardt, Mikol Hjelvik.

Guest Present: Dr. Stuart Knapp, John Pulasky, Monica Lindeen, Bill Kennedy, Dan Krum.

Minutes were read by Vice Chairman Greg Lackman. Motion to accept minutes as read by Dave Kelsey, 2nd by Mike Greytak. Motion passed.

Old Business

Dr. Stu Knapp, Interim Dean/Director, provided a MAES report. He expressed an appreciation for the function and role of the advisory committees. He subsequently discussed:

- Announced the Ag. Bioscience Building will be completed in the summer of 1999.
- Search for the new Dean of the College of Agriculture. Hopefully completed by July 1, 1999.
- Search for new Department Head of the Plant Sciences Department. Search has entered the interview phase.
- Announced changes to the Department of Animal and Range Sciences.
  - Dr. Pete Burfening has accepted Department Head position full time.
  - A meat science position has been restored, search process will begin immediately.
- Announced the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee for the College of Agriculture to develop a dynamic plan. Committee will be comprised of COA department heads, legislative ag. leaders and ag. industry representatives.
- Announce the Joint Appropriations Committee will be meeting on the MSU campus once during the legislative session. He asked for support of the Governor’s proposed budget contained a $30 million increase for the Montana University System including $3.1 million per year for use by the MAES for required matching funds of competitive federal grant programs, and $1.5 million per year to for MAES activities in Vision 2005. He asked for a letter of support from the SARC Advisory Committee. Dr. Knapp also indicated the College of Agriculture/MAES would request that the legislature rescind the 3% salary savings withholding and the earmarked income revenue policies.

Monica Lindeen, newly elected House Representative from District 7, asked for input from the SARC advisory committee for the new legislative session.

Terral gave the state advisory committee report. He reported to the state on the progress of SARC.

Dr. Ken Kephart gave an update as Superintendent. He said he was going to give priority to hiring faculty. He is targeting a starting date of June 1 for a weed specialist. No secretary has been hired as of yet. The Research associate job application is closing December 15th, and will try to fill it ASAP. Leases
have been renewed for 1 year for ground to Mike Gabel. With help from Bill Kennedy and Yellowstone County, the bridge has been repaired. Office trailer is now on site. At least 150 windows have been broken by hail, and most have been replaced with better ones with the insurance money. The old concrete has been cleaned up. The weather yard is not quite ready. There are three building priorities that need to be addressed. An office is most urgently needed; then a chemical storage and loading facility, about the size of a two car garage, with closed rinsate storage; then a shop, about approx. 40' by 80'.

Bill Kennedy suggested going to the school of architecture to get building ideas so we can go to the legislature and Board of Regents for money.

Ag research: Most of the research got hailed out. Sugarbeets got harvested. Dr. Kephart is looking to push soybean research on site.

John Pulasky gave a talk on possibly getting some type of state climatologist position up and running.

Dr. Kephart reported on his meeting with the county agents as of 11/23/98. He voiced his disappointment at the poor attendance of the county agents at the SARC advisory meetings.

New Business

Dr. Kephart stated that he is interested in having off-site small grain variety trials in every major agronomic area in the SARC region.

Kim Nile moved and Greg Lackman seconded that a person serve for three, three year terms on the advisory committee with a provision for staying on if you are on the state committee. Passed.

Amended and seconded that a person stays off for 2 years once his term is up. carried.

Moved by Kim Nile that we elect officers every year, but they could only serve for three years in one office consecutively. Passed

Moved and seconded that a secretary be added to the executive committee. Passed.

Moved and seconded that we change annual meeting to November with consideration for a second meeting up to the executive committee. carried.

Moved and seconded that the chairman be alternate to the state committee.

Moved and seconded that the proposed Constitution be adopted as amended today.

Terral Balzer was reelected chairman. Greg Lackman was reelected vice-chairman. Mike Bernhardt was reelected secretary.

Moved to follow term start dates that were previously established, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned, 3:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bernhardt, Secretary
SARC Advisory Committee