

To: J. S. Almond, Vice President Business Services & Associate Treasurer

From: D. C. Smith, Business Manager School of Agriculture

Date: February 16, 2004

Subject: Request for Rate Approval for Agriculture Plant Growth Chambers

Service Center Type: Research

Purpose of Activity: Recover expenses associated with operation of Agriculture Plant Growth Chambers in the School of Agriculture

Internal Clients: Researchers from across campus, primarily the School of Agriculture

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (HLA) is proposing folding in the growth chambers plant growth areas at the WSLR building, occupied by several Ag School departments. This document is to request approval of a rate to recover operational expenses associated with 31 Plant Growth Chambers, 30 light racks and 528 Sq Ft of usable greenhouse space.

Growth chamber utilization has been over 70% and equipment has been well maintained. Success has been characterized by excellent relationship between Faculty, facility managers, Physical Facilities Services group, and the vendors, working to improve the operation and longevity of the equipment.

The equipment at WSLR proposed to be folded in is poorly utilized due to lack of funds to maintain it. For example, greenhouse space utilization is approximately 33%, mostly due to aging equipment that cannot keep up with cooling demands of Arabidopsis species requirements. Cost recovery through recharge rates would distribute costs across departments according to their use.

Folding in this equipment would also bring all WSLR common use areas under one pest control management system, thereby improving production of research crops while improving safety by having a licensed pesticide applicator in charge of them.

Supplies and equipment not covered under the current recharge – everything from paper towels to pesticides to cooling equipment for rooms overheated by lamp ballasts – could be distributed across departments. Currently the HLA Dept has been covering these costs from its greenhouse budget.

The broader scope of this proposed center could allow for other equipment bought by the AG faculty to be folded in, if that faculty requests that the equipment be placed in the multi-use areas of the center.

Costs in this proposal reflect changes in expenses of running the original chambers. Due to increased production of Arabidopsis – a low light, cool temperature species, lamps are being replaced only half as often as estimated previously. Maintenance of the chambers has been streamlined, requiring less labor than previous year's operation. Offsetting some of these savings is the reality that warranties have expired, requiring higher repair costs.

A greenhouse team consisting of the Horticulture Greenhouse Plant Growth Facilities Manager, Lily Greenhouse manager, and WSLR Plant Growth Facilities coordinator will be responsible for programming, repairs, and maintenance of the various chambers

Internal researchers will request space in the plant growth chambers using a request form. The researcher will provide all of the necessary technical information as well as provide an estimate of how long the growth chamber will be needed and authorize the account number to charge the usage fees. The Plant Growth Facilities Manager will maintain a copy of this documentation and the original forwarded to the business office.

As the duration of an experiment may change during the time identified, a monthly calendar will be maintained for each chamber. The manager will review these calendars weekly, identifying who is using the chamber. This calendar will be forwarded to the business office at the end of each month and will serve as verification of the usage fees to be charged to the previously identified research project. PI authorization will be verified with the space request form. Usage fees will be billed monthly using the GENBILL program. This program is currently installed and working in the HLA Business Office.

We are assuming that the 31 growth chambers being folded in to the center will be utilized at 100% capacity.

Approval Requested:

Dr. Edward N. Ashworth, Head, Department of
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Approval Recommended:

Dr. Vic L. Lechtenberg, Dean, School of Agriculture

PURDUE UNIVERSITY*Interoffice Memorandum***Department of Horticulture & Landscape
Architecture Business Office**

To: J. S. Almond, Vice President Business Services & Assistant Treasurer
From: D. C. Smith, Business Manager School of Agriculture
Date: June 3, 2005
Subject: Request for Rate Approval for the Agriculture Plant Growth Chambers
Department: Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

Service
Center Director: Plant Growth Facilities Manager, Horticulture & Landscape Architecture

Location of
Service Center: School of Agriculture

Previous Approval: 03/13/00

Service
Center Account: 492-1165-0002

Rate
Effective Date: Upon Approval

Depreciation
Recovery: No

Rates:

The School of Agriculture Growth Chambers

Chamber Name	Unit Quantity	Location of Growth Chambers			Proposed cost per Sq Ft - Daily
		Horticulture Greenhouse	Lily Facility	WSLR	
Convion E 7	1		X		\$0.22
Convion E 15	12	X	X		\$0.14
Convion PGR 15	4		X		\$0.14
Convion E 8	6	X			\$0.21
Percival AR - 75 L	10			X	\$0.11
31 Added Chambers of various makes				X	\$0.07
Light Racks				X	\$0.16 Per Shelf
WSLR Greenhouse				X	\$0.03

* Unit equals a Light shelf, Greenhouse table, Growth Chamber

Approval Recommended:

Lucia M. Anderson, Director of Business Managers

Approved:

Jim S. Almond, Vice President Business Services & Assistant Treasurer