

UF/IFAS Faculty Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 13, 2001
102 Poultry-Dairy Science Conference Room
1:15 p.m.
Dee Wilkins, presiding

Members Present: Dee Wilkins, Chair, Ron Barnett, Bill Hill, Ron Muraro, Grover Smart, Mary Collins, Peter Hansen, Patrick Hogue, Clayton Hutcheson, Don Maynard

Members Absent: Dorota Haman, Katy Sieving, and Sue Percival

The FAC meeting in May was canceled due to Dr. Martin's travel schedule.

Ron Muraro (Citrus REC-Lake Alfred) was introduced to the committee. Ron will serve the remaining term of Jack Rechcigal, who stepped down after becoming Center Director at Bradenton.

Dr. Martin shared with the committee the 2001 Legislative Budget Report and related issues. He commented on the \$2.6 million shortfall. This report was e-mailed to the faculty on June 6. Regional meetings with legislators have been scheduled beginning the week of June 18. The purpose of these meetings is to explain to legislative members the total IFAS program and address issues raised during the last session regarding Extension programs.

Dr. Martin is optimistic that beginning in October some positions that are currently frozen will be released. He reviewed the guidelines for the 2.4% merit increase and how it will affect faculty at various levels.

Even though the Board of Regents gave approval for an Agronomy/Soil and Water Science Building, it is still on hold. Dr. Martin is optimistic that it will be built within 3 years.

IFAS may do very well in the federal budget. Specifically, the budget for T-STAR may be increased from \$3.7 million to \$10 million. There was some discussion on the T-STAR program and how it is handled within IFAS. It was suggested and agreed that Dean Jones be invited to our July meeting to comment and answer questions about this program.

The new Board of Trustees is expected to be in place by July 1. At this time it is not known who will be appointed to serve terms of up to six years. The Board will have 13 members appointed by the governor. The University of Florida and Florida State University Boards will be appointed after all other state university boards have been announced.

Discussion then followed on the future of tuition waivers for state employees. The current legislature has abolished the program. It is not known if the new University of Florida Board of Trustees will continue a similar program.

Dr. Martin reminded us that the 2nd Florida First Conference will be held in Orlando, June 27 to 29. At this time 285 plan to attend. A publication on the role of IFAS will be distributed at the conference. Dr. Frederick Kirschmann, Director of the Leopold Center at Iowa State University, will be the keynote speaker.

The UF/IFAS Research and Education Center Review has been completed. There are 38 recommendations from the review committee. The report is available on the IFAS website and Dr. Martin encouraged the faculty to read and comment on it. An internal IFAS committee has been appointed to propose specific actions to implement key recommendations.

Some discussion items included getting information to the faculty before it is published in the paper. An example was given concerning the pessimistic article printed locally. Getting the information to the faculty first will allow for any necessary clarification of a statement.

Dr. Martin asked for the input of faculty into the development of priority issues to be presented for the next legislative session. He suggested that the FAC might like to be in on the discussion. He is open to that possibility. The legislature will meet beginning in January next year. House and Senate committees will be meeting as early as this Fall.

The Faculty Accountability System name has been changed to the Faculty Activity System. The responsibility of this system has been assigned to the Agricultural Education and Communication Department. The system still has "bugs" in it that hopefully will be worked out in the next few months.

FAC discussed the "Review of Sustained Performance Policy Draft" submitted by William Fleming, Director of IFAS Personnel Affairs. There was quite a bit of discussion, and it was decided that he be invited to the July meeting to comment on some of the issues raised by the committee.

Nominations for the FAC are being invited. There will be 7 new members. Representing Gainesville faculty, 2 will be elected and 1 appointed by Dr. Martin. Representing Extension faculty, 2 will be elected. And to represent Research and Education Centers, 1 will be elected and 1 appointed. New members will join the FAC at the August meeting. Deadline for nominations is June 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Next meeting is to be held Tuesday, July 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Collins