

UF/IFAS Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes
14 May 2003

Members Present: David Wofford (Chair and Presiding), Lynn Bailey, Maria Gallo-Meagher, Susan Hedge, Tim Hewitt, Karen Koch, Marjorie Moore, Ron Muraro, Ken Quesenberry, and Jim Selph.

Members Absent: Bill Mahan, Jim Preston

Meeting called to order at 1:25 p.m. by Chair David Wofford.

No agendas were distributed, but it was announced that the agenda would be the items for agenda from the minutes of the April 16, 2003 FAC meeting . The minutes of the April 16, 2003 meeting were approved as previously circulated.

Vice-President Martin attended and made the following comments:

The relative IFAS budget has become slightly less favorable during the early part of the legislative session. We are hopeful that the House budget will prevail which give IFAS equal funding as for last year.

A debate continues as to whether IFAS will vote with all of E & G regarding faculty union representation. The issue is currently before the PERC. The vote could be held sometime this summer. The vote will be conducted by mail ballot to home addresses.

There were some issues that IFAS administration is currently appealing to the provost regarding the SPP. There appears to have been a possible bias against campus faculty that have a major extension appointment.

We are currently interviewing candidates for Chair of Microbiology and Cell Science and for Director of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation

VP Martin distributed a memorandum of agreement between IFAS, CLAS, and Engineering regarding the organization and administration of the new School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE).

The status of the current UF presidential search and other presidential searches were discussed.

The agenda items from the 16 April FAC meeting were discussed with VP Martin. He made notes on several of them and promised to obtain answers where he did not have them. He suggested individuals to meet with FAC at the next meeting to discuss electronic data/media/software/ FAS issues. Chair Wofford will attempt to schedule appropriate individuals to meet with FAC at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at ca. 3:45.

Submitted by K. H. Quesenberry, FAC secretary.

Chair Wofford then solicited agenda items for future FAC meetings. Listed below is the secretary's summary and compilation of those suggestions:

A need to relook at the current travel reimbursements especially for meals.

A suggestion that IFAS pursue special UF/IFAS rates and other hotel near I-75 especially for REC faculty and extension faculty who need to stay overnight in Gainesville - in addition to the Baymont and Red Roof Inn.

Complaints about and need to improve the EDIS search engine.

Need for information/decision on status of FAS for this year.

Several complaints still arising about problems with IFAS Grants Office (Some have good experience, others bad, maybe depending on assigned representative).

Need for a centralized coordination of current information available to IFAS faculty on available discounts and sources for computer software, digital cameras, etc. An example was the SODA shop discounts on site licenses of some products.

Critical need for someone to be responsible for cleaning out and updating the IFAS Outlook address book.

Hard to get to EDIS from the new IFAS home web page.

More and more agencies are using Adobe Acrobat and there is a need for a site license for Acrobat Composed to reduce the purchase cost.

County faculty would encourage departments to develop more PPT presentations for use by county staff in local meetings.

Can we make an effort to get all counties on DSL or equivalent speed connections.

Status of UF faculty unionization related to IFAS.

Concern about legal status of county faculty re. Union voting and counting for/serving on UF Senate.

Chair Wofford circulated a list of comments received regarding governance. There is a sense that out-state faculty are not considered for membership on committees. Questions arose as to how upper administration decides on committee memberships.

VP Martin then arrived and made the following comments:

He discussed the current legislative situation of the IFAS budget. At the time of the FAC meeting it appeared that IFAS will receive a near level FY-04 budget compared to FY-03. Thus there is hope that IFAS can use some of the DROP generated retirement funds to fill critical lines and redirect some positions at the margins.

The IFAS Gulf Coast REC at Bradenton has been sold. Funds from the sale + other property sales in the area + a \$422 K allocation from Hillsborough County will be used for development of a new center at Balm. Bids for site development and facility design are out at present. The target date for relocation is 2005.

IFAS administrator searches:

A list of four candidates for Chair of Microbiology and Cell Science has been identified and interviews are being scheduled.

A list of three finalist for the Director of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation has been identified and interviews are being scheduled.

The current plan is to identify an interim Director of IFAS International Programs from within IFAS.

Plans are well along to build a new building at Ft. Lauderdale REC in conjunction with NOVA SE University.

IFAS Administration has released 20 county positions and 24 faculty positions for advertisements and filling after October 1, 2003 and is about to release an additional 18 positions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.