

UF/IFAS Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes
17 March 2004

Members present: Jim Selph (Chair and Presiding), Doug Archer, Lynn Bailey, Alison Fox, Viv Harris, Tim Hewitt, Celia Hill, Marjorie Moore, Carol Lehtola, Larry Parsons, Jim Preston, and Ken Quesenberry.

Member absent: Gregg Nuessly

Meeting called to order at 1:18pm by Chair Jim Selph. The agenda was distributed.

The Minutes: from the February meeting were reviewed. The motion to accept them (with typographical corrections), made by Lynn Bailey and seconded by Marjorie Moore, was approved unanimously

Jim Selph reported that Vice-President Martin was unable to attend because he was at an interview for the President's position at New Mexico State University, and neither Joe Joyce nor any of the Deans were available today. In addition, Jim suggested that faculty be encouraged to use the IT helpdesk on Tuesdays 5 – 7 pm now that this service, as requested by FAC, is available.

Travel authorizations (TAR) policy: At the request of an IFAS faculty member, Dr. Martin will be asked to address the IFAS policy concerning the conditions when TARs are needed. It is understood that TARs are needed for all out-of-state travel, but it is unclear to members of FAC whether there is consistency between units over the need for TARs for within-state travel.

Problems with IT within IFAS, including FAS2: Jim Selph expressed his concern with several aspects of IT within IFAS including: it is faster to search with Google than EDIS; no sign of the polycom requested for FAC meetings and some problems with its use elsewhere, especially if more than two contacts at once; and concern that FAS2 remains incomplete despite continued delays. Some FAC members in recent training are encouraged by the promise of an effective and operational system within a month, but there are also fears that it is being pushed on faculty for the 2004 POW despite defects and before it is ready. There was concern that the 2004 POW will be finished too late in the year to be helpful.

A motion to ask Dr. Martin to abandon efforts to use FAS2 for the 2004 POW (use last year's plans or format, if necessary) so that focus can be put on getting FAS2 completely ready for the 2004 ROA, was made by Jim Preston and seconded by Lynn Bailey. The motion was approved unanimously.

IFAS forum on shared governance and union vote: A straw poll indicated that the FAC members wanted to continue with their plan to organize a forum, with representatives from the union and shared governance, that would help inform IFAS faculty of the issues relevant to the union vote. A subcommittee of Alison Fox, Larry Parsons, Jim Preston and Ken Quesenberry was formed to develop these plans. Although the date of the vote is unknown (but seems increasingly likely to be in the fall) plans for the forum would be developed by May. It was suggested that representatives from land-grant universities with a history of shared governance (e.g., Wisconsin / UC Riverside) also be approached for input. The subcommittee would also consider how to interact with the unit discussion leaders that have been identified as a result of the request that Joe Joyce reported to the FAC during the February meeting.

Bonuses and Special Pay Increases (SPI): Marjorie and Celia reported that they have formulated a brief questionnaire about bonuses that will be distributed to Center Directors, District Extension Directors and Department Chairs. They have not received any responses to a request

for information about bonus allocation from faculty located in the southern US who are leaders in Epsilon Sigma Phi (extension fraternity). A further report on possible guidelines for faculty bonuses will be presented next month. At that time, Lynn and Tim will also report on guidelines for SPIs for faculty.

Start-up funds for new faculty in the Genetics Institute (GI): Jim Preston would like Richard Jones to address (maybe at the next meeting) whether the Provost has provided a set amount of start-up funds for each new faculty member in the GI. If not, will IFAS be able to make competitive offers?

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Fox, FAC Secretary.