

UF/IFAS Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes  
19 May 2004

**Members present:** Jim Selph (Chair and Presiding), Lynn Bailey, Alison Fox, Carol Lehtola, Marjorie Moore, Gregg Nuessly, Larry Parsons, Jim Preston, and Ken Quesenberry

Members absent: Doug Archer, Viv Harris, Tim Hewitt, and Celia Hill.

Meeting called to order at 1:25pm by Chair Jim Selph. The agenda was distributed.

**The Minutes:** from the April meeting were reviewed. The motion to accept, made by Larry Parsons and seconded by Marjorie Moore, was approved unanimously.

Jim Selph noted that the general call for nominations to FAC had gone out and FAC members were encouraged to make nominations.

Vice-President Martin arrived at 1:40pm and made the following comments:

**Travel:** Judy Futch in the Travel Office confirmed that a Travel Authorization Request (TAR) is only required for in-state travel if there is a registration fee (e.g., for a conference) that will be paid with state funds. There might be some changes in the switch over to PeopleSoft, at which time faculty members will be responsible for submitting their own travel vouchers online. Dr. Martin sees the whole state as the IFAS campus and so it is appropriate not to need permission to travel across our campus. Unit heads can approve the use of accommodation at meetings that occur within 50 miles of home (particularly pertinent for faculty at RECs in central Florida). New rates are to be announced for travel that will be tied to the IRS regulations including mileage of 35.7¢ per mile and premiums for per diem in certain cities.

**Faculty salary increases:** The State budget includes a \$1000 bonus (one time) for all faculty (pro-rated for County faculty) but President Machen plans to supplement this to a total increase of about 4% per faculty FTE. The final amount is still uncertain as he waits to hear from the Provost's Office about what funding is available from tuition increases, etc., but the intention is to provide an average 3.5% merit increase (IFAS range typically 2% - 5.5%) in addition to the legislative bonus.

**President Machen learning about IFAS:** President Machen has visited the Apopka REC and Osceola County offices and he plans to attend a FAC meeting soon. Thus, he is developing a better sense of how a Land Grant university works.

**Administrative searches:** The first Search and Screen Committee meeting for the Senior Vice President (SVP is now the official title) of IFAS will be on May 28<sup>th</sup> and Jim Selph is representing the FAC. It is hoped that the post can be filled by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, possibly before the new Provost is hired. Jim is also on the S&S committee for the position of Extension Dean, which it is hoped will be filled during the summer. Dr. Jimmy Cheek is Chair of the S&S committee for the UF position of VP for student affairs. The position of VP for University Relations (public and government relations) is also being filled. It is likely that there will be some staffing reductions in this area as there are currently four full-time staff in Tallahassee and five or six consultants.

**Life Sciences building:** Although certain nanotechnology plans were included in the State budget, plans for the Life Sciences building were dropped. It should be top of the list next year.

**Computer resources and RECs:** IFAS will continue to support the Wide Area Network (WAN) to provide a common level of service for PeopleSoft to work. Those RECs with enough faculty

(e.g., >12) to support hiring their own technical help can run their own Local Area Network (LAN) with their own local firewalls.

**Faculty option for 9 or 12 month appointments:** A draft IMM has been written.

**Union vote and shared governance:** Dr. Martin reported that: PERC has still not set a date for the Union vote; both the Medical and Law Schools have appealed to PERC to be excluded from the vote; and that IFAS has requested electronic as well as paper votes to accommodate off-campus faculty. He believes that the unit representatives identified as liaisons for the union vote discussions should be included in the IFAS Forum and that the new SVP will continue to provide support for the Forum. Jim Preston briefly described PROFS, Inc. which is a voluntary non-profit organization of over 900 University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty members set up in 1976 by the Faculty Senate. PROFS is not a union but advocates on behalf of the UW-Madison faculty before state legislators, the Governor, the Board of Regents, the U.S. Congress and the public (<http://www.profs.wisc.edu/whoweare.html>). Dr. Martin did not see why a similar organization could not be accommodated in IFAS perhaps with a faculty lobbying team, especially including County 4-H associations. There was discussion that IFAS is not as dominant in the Faculty Senate as it could be and it was suggested that an IFAS caucus be established so that, when appropriate, IFAS senators could vote in a block (possibly aligned with Veterinary Medicine or other caucuses). The Polycorn system in McCarty could be used at a meeting of IFAS senators that could be organized by the FAC to discuss this idea and select a leader.

**Dual admission with SFCC:** Dr. Martin described a plan that he has floated with Jackson Sasser the President of Santa Fe Community College and Guy York the VP, to have some dual admission courses at SFCC and UF. Lower level undergraduate students could be enrolled "in Gainesville" taking courses that have dual numbers. The Blue track would be for SFCC admissions and the Orange track would be for UF students who would be able to switch to UF course numbers as soon they were admitted as a Junior at UF. Some faculty could have joint appointments, SFCC students could live in UF dorms, and students would attend courses on either campus. IFAS could proceed alone with this plan if the rest of UF is not interested. While there may be concerns in popular majors (e.g., Microbiology with 600 undergraduates) that this would not necessarily assist in raising standards, this plan could be of particular benefit to under-enrolled majors. It would be necessary for Dr. Jimmy Cheek to lead this initiative and to have extensive discussions with the IFAS and SFCC curriculum committees to develop two year curricula for important majors. The provision of appropriate advising would also be essential to help guide students into the 138 majors at UF (on average freshmen change their major three times in their first year).

Dr. Martin hopes to attend the next FAC meeting with Dr. Richard Jones on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, shortly before heading to New Mexico. Dr. Martin departed the FAC meeting at 3:10pm.

**FAC role in proposing IFAS caucus of senators:** Ken Quesenberry moved with Jim Preston as second, that using a list of IFAS senators from the SVP's office, the Chair of FAC will send them a letter recommending the establishment of a caucus of IFAS senators to strengthen the role of IFAS in the UF Senate. IFAS senators would be requested to attend the FAC meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the advantages of such a caucus and how it could be organized with election of a Chair and Vice-chair. The motion was approved unanimously. It was noted that the Chair would be responsible for identifying Senate issues that would be appropriate for a block vote (such as undergraduate and graduate programs) but that parochialism should be avoided.

**IFAS Forum related to the Union vote:** A proposal was presented and discussed for organizing an IFAS Forum related to Union participation. It was agreed that the Forum should: be held a few weeks before the Union vote; be for IFAS faculty but no one would be excluded; be no longer than 1.5 hours; include discussion about Shared Governance (SG) but be promoted in relation to the Union vote (there appears to be some apathy about SG in IFAS); include two Union

representatives, two SG representatives, someone to explain options like PROFs, Inc, someone from a UF college currently represented by the Union, and a professional facilitator (perhaps suggested by someone from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication). Based on these suggestions Alison Fox will send the revised proposal to FAC members, requesting them to prioritize the included lists of questions on the Union and SG for use at the Forum or on its associated website.

**Special Pay Increases (SPIs):** A set of guidelines for SPIs was presented and will be further discussed when Susan Hudson (Assistant Director, IFAS Administrative Services) attends the June FAC meeting. There are about 100 staff SPIs per year (mostly from grants) so IFAS-wide committees may only be manageable for the fewer faculty SPIs. A sub-District arrangement (with similar counties grouped) may be needed for county faculty as it would be difficult to form appropriate committees at the County or District levels.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Fox, FAC Secretary.