

IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2005

Members present: Martin Adjei, Lochrane Gary, Lisa Guion (chair), Bob Hochmuth, Ed Jennings, Gail Kauwell, Heather McAuslane, Fritz Roka, Mike Sweat, Jane Polston

Members absent: Elizabeth Bolton, John Davis, Jude Grosser

Meeting began at 1:34 p.m. chaired by Lisa Guion. Agenda was distributed. Vice President Cheek addressed the Faculty Council (FC).

Guidelines for operation of UF/IFAS Faculty Council. VP Cheek distributed the updated Internal Management Memorandum (6C1-6.10-2), which outlines the purpose and guidelines for operation of the UF/IFAS Faculty Council (revised August 15, 2005, http://imm.ifas.ufl.edu/6_10/610-2.htm). VP Cheek requested that the FC make note of time-sensitive tasks that the FC has taken on (Senate nominations, T&P Committee nominations and elections to the FC) so that a schedule can be incorporated into operating procedures. VP Cheek discussed with the new members the function of the FC. The FC does more than advise the VP. The FC provides feedback on University and IFAS matters and presents issues of concern to IFAS faculty to the VP's attention. VP Cheek suggested that the FC could take on an expanded role in interacting with IFAS faculty. Leading a faculty forum was one suggestion. One FC member mentioned that interaction of the FC with the faculty would be facilitated with more specific email list-servs. VP Cheek thought that these were available and Chair Guion will check on those. VP Cheek wants the FC to meet with all Deans and the VP twice a year. FC should periodically meet with all Deans in IFAS, together, rather than separately.

IFAS discussion forum. In response to the issue of communication with the faculty, Chair Guion brought to the FC's attention the IFAS discussion forum web page that is accessible from the IFAS FC web page (<http://facultyadvisory.ifas.ufl.edu/>). A specific forum can be created for all IFAS faculty to air views or discuss important issues. There is also the capability of conducting active polls. John Battenfield could set this up if the FC decides to explore the option.

2006 Legislative initiatives. VP Cheek briefly mentioned legislative initiatives for 2006, noting that 2005 was a good year for IFAS and the University because of the state universities' inclusion in administered funds.

IFAS Tenure/Permanent Status/Promotion Committee. VP Cheek reported that five faculty had been elected to the IFAS Tenure/Permanent Status/Promotion Committee: Nancy Gal (Extension Agent IV, Marion Co.), Pat Miller (County Extension Director & Extension Agt IV, Okeechobee Co.), Steve Olson (NFREC, Quincy), Dorota Haman (Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Gainesville) and Susan Jacobson (Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation, Gainesville). VP Cheek, in consultation with the IFAS deans, will appoint five more to balance the committee. One member from last year's committee will serve as chair.

Unifas. VP Cheek updated FC on Unifas. Unifas group has been working on improving the software since March 2005. Two rounds of testing with faculty have been completed, the latest using 2005 data. Chairs and Center Directors are commenting on the output. VP Cheek and Deans must make a decision soon on whether to go with Unifas for reporting 2005 accomplishments. There is no alternative at this point. Significant improvements have been made. One improvement is the ability to output the report as a Word document so that it can be reformatted or edited if necessary. Online help is improved but no PDF manual is available. Issues with EDIS and other publications have been resolved. Members of the FC commented on the inaccuracy of non-IFAS databases and concerns about not knowing where specific information should be reported. Members expressed the opinion that the faculty must be

informed soon regarding the plans for completing and submitting the 2005 annual report. If Unifas is to be used for this purpose, faculty should be informed in advance that there are inaccuracies in some of the databases from which Unifas pulls data, and although many of the previous problems have been fixed, that the final report will need to be tweaked in Word.

PeopleSoft. VP Cheek updated the FC on PeopleSoft. The Board of Trustees spent an hour recently discussing PeopleSoft issues. Their conclusion was that not enough money had been spent to get the program working properly. Four VPs, including VP Cheek, are looking at problems with Human Resources, Grants and Contracts, and Finance. VP Cheek is soliciting input from an advisory committee comprised of IFAS accountants on issues in finance and accounting that must be addressed. Once the problems have been identified, VP Cheek will lead the group in prioritizing the problems so that Bridges staff can begin work to solve them.

Questions of VP Cheek from FC members.

FC member - If UF Faculty are no longer State employees, why are they held to State per diem rates?

VP Cheek - UF faculty get federal per diem rates. Also, there is a plan to increase mileage rates by 8 cents/mile to compensate for increased fuel costs.

FC member - There is talk of losing technical support. How accurate is this?

VP Cheek - IFAS has \$77 million in faculty salaries and \$44 million in staff (all support staff, not just technical) salaries. This is way out of balance compared to our peer institutions. VP Cheek's initial goal is to reduce staff payroll by \$5 million freeing up money for new faculty hires, enhancing current faculty salaries based on productivity, and providing units with some discretionary funding. Staff allocation is being looked at. Some faculty, because of their research area, will never have large grants to fund technicians. Other faculty have millions of dollars in grants and could fund their technicians and a portion of their salary on grants.

FC member - What happened to the initiative to allow IFAS faculty to have 9-month appointments?

VP Cheek - VP Cheek is not in favor of this and doesn't want the University to shut down in the summer. VP Cheek would like to provide incentives to faculty for putting some of their salaries on grant proposals. Giving IFAS faculty bonuses has in the past been discouraged because there has been no agreed upon plan.

FC member - How is the search for the Director of International Programs going and how should the FC participate?

VP Cheek - Four candidates are scheduled to be interviewed. The FC should participate, as all faculty are invited to participate, by attending public interviews and providing feedback to Jim Jones (chair of the search committee). The new Director must have an entrepreneurial spirit and needs to get UF back into the international grants arena after a long absence.

Having no further questions, VP Cheek left at 2:42 p.m.

Fall FC meeting dates for FC. October 19th, November 16th and December 14th.

Buy Local Initiative. Bob Hochmuth updated FC on the Buy Local Initiative. To increase sustainability of the UF enterprise, Kim Tanzer (Chair, Faculty Senate) wants Aramark (campus dining supplier) to buy food produced within 100 miles of campus. Aramark is interested but needs issues of product liability and farmer cooperation and coordination resolved in order to proceed.

Kim Tanzer (Chair, UF Faculty Senate) joined FC at 3:25 p.m.

Shared governance. Board of Trustees set goals for University to move from 16th, as ranked in the in U.S. News & World Report, into the top 10. To do this we need more faculty and, in particular, more National Academy of Sciences faculty. Expect resources to be made available to increase the number of faculty. For faculty to move forward there must be a commitment to shared governance (SG) at all levels. President Machen is very supportive of SG. Five new councils to formulate policy within the Faculty Senate are being formed. A new Faculty Senate- Presidential task force on implementation of shared governance structure (8/15/2005 to 6/15/2006) has been formed (committee members and charge can be found at <http://www.senate.ufl.edu/>). This task force will look at shared governance at the college and department levels. While some colleges have faculty councils, others do not and Deans of those colleges will not allow them. Any faculty member can attend Senate meetings (3rd Thursday of each month).

Buy Local initiative. This initiative is part of the work of the UF Office of Sustainability (<http://www.sustainability.ufl.edu/>). Its goal is to connect people with their food through serving local food in Gator dining halls and having a farmer's market on campus. Tanzer suggested that FC can advocate on behalf of eating and buying local food.

Kim Tanzer departed 4:40 p.m.

Representation by IFAS senators on Faculty Senate policy councils is critical. Chair Guion with Fritz Roka's help will draft and send email letters to IFAS senators to encourage them to serve on or to elect other IFAS senators to serve on these councils. Other issues brought up by Tanzer's visit will be carried forward to the next FC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather McAuslane (Secretary)