

IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2005

Members present: Elizabeth Bolton, John Davis, Lochrane Gary, Jude Grosser, Lisa Guion (chair), Bob Hochmuth, Gail Kauwell, Heather McAuslane, Mike Sweat

Members absent: Martin Adjei, Ed Jennings, Fritz Roka, Jane Polston

Chair Lisa Guion called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. in room 102, Animal Sciences Building . The agenda was distributed. Chair Guion welcomed Senior Vice President Cheek, Dean Barrick and Dean McLellan.

Remarks by Senior VP Cheek

1. VP Cheek said that the 2005-2006 UF/IFAS Tenure, Permanent Status, and Promotion Committee did an excellent job. The Faculty Senate and the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee are interested in how this committee was formed, with the goal of finding out how different colleges manage peer review and tenure decisions.
2. Three initiatives supported by the Board of Governors will be pursued during this legislative session: 1) emerging pathogens, 2) family and 4H, and 3) the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation. IFAS will request \$4 million for infrastructure improvements and \$6.9 million to repair hurricane damage.
3. IFAS is doing well in its drive for private donations. Twelve percent of the goal for the 7-year campaign was collected in a 6-month period.
4. In response to a question from a FC member about hybrid vehicles, VP Cheek stated he did not think it was mandatory to buy hybrid vehicles, especially in those cases where specific types of vehicles are needed in the field. However, all faculty statewide should try to buy a hybrid vehicle alternative if there is one.

Remarks by Dean Barrick

1. A national search is underway for two Associate Deans. A search committee has been formed. No search firm was involved. One Associate Dean will be responsible for undergraduate education and the second will provide leadership for graduate education and distance delivery. The goals for each position will be set by Dean Barrick in collaboration with his Associate Deans. Their performance will be compared against their job description in an annual meeting with Dean Barrick. One Associate Dean may be assigned the task of improving faculty recognition in the areas of teaching and advising.
2. CALS currently has eight committees, whose members are all appointed, with the CALS Curriculum Committee being the most important. Dean Barrick would like to reorganize the committees and encourage greater faculty participation. Dean Barrick wants the Curriculum Committee to assume the role of analyzing course content, demand, audience, duplication, etc. These questions should be answered before a CALS course goes to the University Curriculum Committee. He would also like to see more CALS faculty participation on the University Curriculum Committee. One FC member mentioned that, as Associate Deans represent their colleges on this committee, it is essential that any new CALS Associate Dean be familiar with all course offerings in the college to prevent duplication of courses across colleges.
3. There are many well-established indicators of productivity and excellence in teaching and advising. Dean Barrick and a group of faculty will develop a document for distribution among the faculty that defines these indicators.

4. Dean Barrick wants to see excellent teachers rewarded. His office will help assemble faculty nomination packets for prestigious awards for excellence in teaching (NACTA, USDA etc...). Funding must be sought from such programs as the Challenge Grants to fund excellent teachers.
5. The proposal for the Biology major is still up in the air. Dean Barrick has stated that CALS needs to be at the table during any discussions of this program. A written agreement on the number of biology majors allowed is necessary. More CALS presence at Preview is essential to recruit incoming undergraduates to CALS majors.
6. In response to a question about off-campus teaching and certificate programs, Dean Barrick stated that the need for any course or certificate program, taught on or off campus, must be thoroughly researched to assure effective use of time and resources.

Remarks by Dean McLellan

1. Searches are underway for a full-time Associate Dean for Research (Agricultural Systems), a half-time Associate Dean for Research (Human Systems), and a full-time director of budget and planning. The in-house search for Associate Dean for Human Systems should be completed by the end of January. The national searches for the other two positions will not close until mid February. The position description of the half-time Associate Dean will evolve but the successful candidate will work in the area of the human interface with natural resources and agriculture. The function of these three Associate Deans is to remove a level of bureaucracy and to provide leadership in their areas of expertise. Each Associate Dean will have a budget to quickly respond to and support worthy faculty initiatives. Associate Deans will be evaluated based on the productivity and success of the research faculty.
2. Changes which are addressing many longstanding problems are continuing in Sponsored Programs. Dean McLellan stated that we are very fortunate to have Nancy Wilkinson as director of Sponsored Programs.
3. In response to a question about how IFAS Research Administration will make faculty more productive, Dean McLellan mentioned the budget allocation to each Associate Dean. There will be an effort to reduce the number of signatures needed on cross-college grant proposals to speed proposal submission. IFAS is investing significantly in the grantsmanship training program conducted by Grant Central (\$150,000 per year for 3 years, a new use of former journal series funds). The first Phase I session on December 12 accommodated 250 faculty and was very well received. The second session on May 18 and 19 is intended to accommodate the needs of REC and other off-campus faculty. Graduate students and post-doctoral scientists will be accommodated in the second and third sessions, improving the skills and quality of our graduating students. The second phase of the program will take 30 research teams per year and help them polish a grant proposal with high potential impact. All faculty are encouraged to put their CV on the Community of Science website to increase awareness of expertise and interests of fellow UF faculty and foster creation of potential cross-discipline research teams.
4. Dean McLellan is very supportive of advisory councils and thinks that every unit and department should have one. Academic and REC councils will have a different makeup and a different perspective on what society needs from IFAS researchers. Dean McLellan has made it a high priority to visit RECs and advisory council meetings.
5. Dean McLellan stresses that IFAS needs to have a presence in Washington , DC . He feels that he is not necessarily the person to interact with legislators and agency national program leaders; the excitement of a researcher cannot be matched. Dean McLellan has subsidized the travel of two researchers to promote their research program and that of another person while in DC. The opportunity for this funding will be made known but not formalized.

In-depth Analysis of IFAS Report of the 2005 University of Florida Faculty Survey. A subcommittee consisting of John Davis, Gail Kauwell, Lisa Guion and Bob Hochmuth was formed to investigate demographic trends in the survey results. They have not yet been able to contact Kyle Cavanaugh to ask whether additional analyses can be run on the data set. This group plans to meet on January 18 to summarize the data analysis, as per VP Cheek's request, and will present it to the FC that afternoon.

Interfacing with IFAS Senators. The IFAS senators will soon meet with VP Cheek as a caucus. A few representatives of the 25 IFAS senators will attend a late spring meeting of the FC to bring any hot issues to the attention of the FC members. Approved minutes of FC meetings will be forwarded to all IFAS senators to improve communication.

Spring Meeting Dates. FC meetings have been scheduled for January 18, February 22, March 8, April 19, and June 14. The date of the May meeting has not been finalized. All meetings will take place in room 102 of the Animal Science building (#499) and will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved with minor changes. Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather McAuslane (Secretary)