

IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2006

Members present: Martin Adjei, Elizabeth Bolton, Lochrane Gary, Lisa Guion (chair), Bob Hochmuth, Gail Kauwell, Heather McAuslane, Fritz Roka, Mike Sweat

Members absent: John Davis, Jude Grosser, Ed Jennings, Jane Polston

Chair Lisa Guion called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in room 102, Animal Sciences Building 499. Senior Vice President Cheek was present. Kim Tanzer, Chair of the UF Faculty Senate, joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m..

Update and Comments from Vice President Cheek.

1. Vice President Cheek expressed that he and IFAS administration are committed to shared governance within IFAS. He requested that the IFAS Faculty Council take on the task of developing IFAS shared governance bylaws. He hopes that we will consider IFAS administration as a partner in this effort and has requested that Dean Barrick serve as the liaison between the FC and IFAS administration. He also encouraged the FC to invite the participation of anyone they deemed appropriate, including the other Deans and the VP.
2. The legislative outlook for IFAS is very good this year. Requests are in the budget for recurring funds (\$9 million), 4H and Families Initiative (\$1 million), Emerging Pathogens (\$2 million), the Center for Landscape Ecology and Conservation (\$1 million), work load formula (\$0.5 million), and the Hastings demonstration project (\$0.5 million). There is a 3% salary increase for faculty and staff. There is \$15.3 million requested in non-recurring funds for infrastructure repair and renovation. Much of this money will be used to mitigate hurricane damage in Belle Glade, Immokalee, Ft. Lauderdale and Homestead.
3. A FC member asked VP Cheek whether the rumors about a potential legislative ban on travel to Cuba are true. VP Cheek replied that the rumors appear to be correct because Cuba is considered a terrorist country.

Kim Tanzer arrived at 1:45 p.m. After welcoming and introducing her, VP Cheek left at 1:50 p.m.

IFAS FC Recommendations for the UF Strategic Work Plan Recommendations Document Being Prepared by the Senate's Academic Policy Council. Dr. Tanzer told us that she received over 100 comments on the draft of the UF Strategic Work Plan from elected faculty groups of four colleges and individual faculty. She forwarded comments every five days to the Academic Policy Council, the group charged with reviewing faculty comment on the draft document. The Council reviewed the comments and made recommendations to improve the document which may be accepted or not by President Machen. The Policy Council opted to write the document around thematic areas rather than on a college basis and Dr. Tanzer suggested that IFAS activities would be found within many of these thematic areas. Several of the FC members reiterated that there was not enough mention of Extension and 4H. Dr. Tanzer said that President Machen views this as too much detail and does not want to specify who will do what but only what will be accomplished. Other FC members stressed that the mission and reach of the University extends beyond Gainesville and that IFAS's role in this is central. Dr. Tanzer replied that the document does state that UF has impact beyond Gainesville but that there is a particular emphasis on impacts within Gainesville because of the President's desire to improve town-gown relationships. FC members stressed that the fact that UF is a land grant university should be mentioned in the preamble to the document; this makes UF distinct as one of only two land grants in the top ten of the AAU membership. Members were also concerned that the agriculture section was so small whereas the humanities and education appendices are so long and detailed. Dr. Tanzer did not know whether appendices would be included in the recommendations for change that will be sent to Dr. Machen. Dr. Tanzer promised to pass on the

comments of the FC to the Academic Policy Council and asked that we prepare another statement of our recommendations for changes that she would then forward to the Policy Council. After Dr. Tanzer left, the FC members formulated the main points of this document: 1) that the University of Florida is a land-grant institution with distinct challenges, opportunities and responsibilities, 2) that IFAS, and therefore, the University has a statewide presence, and 3) that life-long education extends beyond post-secondary education. Extension is the primary means of facilitating life-long learning. The FC secretary was tasked with writing the document and forwarding it to Dr. Tanzer.

Tips on Developing IFAS Shared Governance Bylaws. In response to a request by Chair Guion, Dr. Tanzer explained how to begin preparation for developing IFAS bylaws. In the fall, the new Faculty Senate Chair, Danaya Wright, will meet with everyone about shared governance. The Faculty Senate will organize workshops to describe the process. In the interim, Dr. Tanzer encouraged us to read the shared governance plan and find and study UF examples of “best practices” in the area of shared governance. She recommended the College of Nursing, and also the Law and Business Schools. Eventually individual units (entities below the level of the College) will need their own bylaws. It is likely that different types of IFAS units (departments, RECs and County extension offices) will need different bylaws. FC members thanked Dr. Tanzer for her time and she left at 2:23 p.m.

Report on Progress of IFAS Faculty Council Nominations and Election. Mike Sweat indicated that the call for nominations went out on the morning of May 4th. Nominations are due May 19th by noon. Balloting will be conducted electronically through the use of Survey Monkey, a procedure suggested and facilitated by Paul Willis. The balloting period will be May 22nd to June 9th.

Report on Progress of IFAS Tenure, Promotion and Permanent Status Committee Nominations and Election. Chair Guion reported that nominations had been secured for two county faculty and two REC faculty. All nominations are due May 19th. Balloting will be conducted online from May 15th to May 26th. Ballots must be counted and results submitted to VP Cheek by June 1st.

Strategies for IFAS Faculty Council Interfacing with Other IFAS Faculty Driven Entities. Chair Guion reported that Sue Percival will serve as the leader of the IFAS “caucus” within the UF Faculty Senate and will be the liaison between the Faculty Senate and the IFAS FC. FC members wondered whether she could attend FC meetings as an *ex officio* member. The FC hopes to encourage IFAS senators, through Dr. Percival, to become active in key Senate committees to provide a voice for IFAS at the University table. Dr. Percival will be invited to the next meeting of the IFAS FC to begin discussion of initiating closer communication between IFAS councilors and UF senators.

Other Business.

1. One previous nominee for Chair of the IFAS FC rescinded his agreement to run for election because of work commitments. Another member was nominated and seconded and agreed to serve. Two current members have now agreed to serve if elected by the current council members. Further nominations will be considered at the June and July meetings, and election will be by email before the August meeting.
2. The FC sees a need to improve the visibility and image of IFAS among our university colleagues much as IFAS regularly conducts public relations campaigns to educate the public about IFAS. We will suggest as a future agenda item that VP Cheek consider ways to elevate IFAS' profile within the University.
3. The minutes of the April IFAS FC meeting were approved.

4. It was suggested that Chair Guion ask VP Cheek to provide administrative assistance to the IFAS FC in the form of a few person-hours a month to research information that the FC may need.
5. As a future agenda item, the FC would like to know the response of the Deans/Chairs to the FC's analysis of the Faculty Survey.

Future Meetings of the FC. Upcoming meetings will be held from 1:30 till 4:30 in Room 102 of Animal Science Building 499 on June 14, July 11, and August 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather McAuslane (Secretary)