

IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2006

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

Members absent: Ed Jennings, Jane Polston, Fritz Roka

Chair Lisa Guion called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Micanopy room of the Reitz Union. Senior Vice President Cheek was present. Guests present included Drs. Randy Duran (Chemistry), Ben Dunn (Biochemistry), David Julian (Zoology), and Troy Sadler (College of Education).

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science for Life Program. Randy Duran introduced his colleagues (named above) involved in this new program. He plans to make presentations throughout the University about this recently funded program which involves four colleges at UF, Scripps Institute, Morehouse College and several European partners. This is a prestigious award from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the largest private funder of science education, with only six awards funded out of 160 applications. The program will be administered by the University-wide Honors Program with involvement so far of 175 faculty mentors in 49 departments.

There are six areas of emphasis:

1. Undergraduate student research – Undergraduate research awards of \$2,000 will be given to 70 to 100 outstanding freshmen each year for 4 years. Students will participate in a Science for Life seminar course where faculty interested in mentoring these students can showcase their research program in lively 15-minute talks. Students then contact appropriate faculty mentors, commit to a 1- to 2-year research plan, and develop a research proposal in the second semester of their freshman year. IFAS faculty with a strong interest in mentoring very bright undergraduates may contact Ben Dunn (bdunn@ufl.edu) or Randy Duran (duan@chem.ufl.edu) to get on the mentoring list and apply for a slot in the Science for Life seminar. In addition to this seminar there will be a mentoring seminar aimed at faculty to help them learn how to be good mentors to these bright students.
2. Graduate student award – Awards of \$500 will be presented to up to 20 graduate students per year who publish quality scientific articles with undergraduates.
3. Future and current faculty development – One part of this initiative is to enhance the diversity of the future faculty pool. There will be four postdoctoral scientists funded at Morehouse College with a split appointment (75% research and 25% teaching). Postdoctoral scientists will receive \$50,000 per year for 2 years and then \$20,000 for academic start up. There will be 28 2-year professorships available to current faculty to be funded at \$5000/year (24 at UF and four at Morehouse). The criteria for professorships are demonstrated excellence in undergraduate mentoring associated with research in the life sciences (as evidenced by, for example, undergraduate co-authored peer-reviewed publications, undergraduate presentations at major scientific conferences, mentee success, and grant funding for undergraduate research).
4. Equipment and laboratory development – A multidisciplinary wet lab (250 m²) is being constructed in the Medical Complex. Up to 1000 undergraduates per year will be accommodated in an integrated series of honors core sciences early in their academic careers. Labs will be well equipped with the latest advanced equipment which will be used throughout the curriculum.
5. Curriculum development – Curriculum in the sciences is being redesigned because this program has the potential of reaching 100s of future middle and high school science

- teachers. The current program for training high school teachers is the ProTeach program (a 5th year Masters degree). There will now be an 18-credit education minor available to all science majors. A new graduate-level course called College Science Teaching and Mentoring is being developed by the College of Education (EDG 6931). The honors program will encourage double and triple majors. There are openings for lab courses to be taught in the wet lab. Elaine Turner is on the curriculum core development committee. The science education plan will meet the emerging State of Florida teaching accreditation guidelines. The COE does not have an advisory committee to develop the core minor but Randy Duran thought that this was a good idea.
6. Summer training of high school teachers – A professional development opportunity will be available to 12 high school teachers teaching at one of six identified low-performing urban high schools in Florida. Teachers will be trained in advanced life science topics that they can take back to their schools along with lesson plans.

It was suggested that we offer Randy Duran the opportunity to speak at the CALS Teaching Enhancement Symposium in August to publicize this program and the opportunities for IFAS faculty involvement. Drs. Duran, Dunn, Sadler and Julian left at 2:30 p.m.

Update and Comments from Senior Vice President Cheek.

1. Sr. VP Cheek confirmed that IFAS faired well this legislative year. Elizabeth Bolton thanked him for his leadership in presenting IFAS' needs to our state legislators.
2. Chair Lisa Guion asked whether there was a process for changing Internal Management Memoranda (IMMs). Sr. VP Cheek replied that the current process is for an interested party to make changes, bring the changes to the notice of the Deans and Sr. VP who discuss the changes, bring these suggested changes to the Faculty Council for their thoughts, and then make a final decision. All IMMs are in need of updating. This will be part of the task of the faculty group (currently four IFAS senators and the entire IFAS Faculty Council) charged with developing the IFAS by-laws but this group should only initially address those IMMs that are obviously at odds with shared governance. The by-laws will put in place the mechanism to change other IMMs as needed.
3. In response to a question about the use of PolyCom by Faculty Council members who cannot attend Faculty Council meetings, Sr. VP Cheek said that face-to-face discussion is always best but that use of PolyCom to conduct FC business, when necessary, was a good use of the technology.
4. In response to a question about the potential overlapping roles of Faculty Council members and IFAS senators, Sr. VP Cheek said that these two groups have very different roles and that he would not recommend abolishing the Faculty Council and using a subset of the senators as his council nor would he like to see Faculty Council members appointed rather than elected. He wants the Faculty Council and IFAS senators to communicate more effectively. To enhance this communication he plans to invite Faculty Council members to join the fall luncheon for IFAS senators that he initiated in Fall 2005.
5. Sr. VP Cheek wants to conduct a statewide faculty meeting soon but the logistics (streaming video, PolyCom) have not yet been worked out.
6. Sr. VP Cheek will accommodate Chair Guion's request for up to 4 person-hours per month on fact-finding for the Faculty Council meetings.
7. In response to the Faculty Council's suggestion that IFAS raise its profile within the University, Sr. VP Cheek agreed that we do need to improve visibility internally. We need to get more IFAS faculty and events publicized in the Gainesville Sun and the Alligator. A Faculty Council member suggested that we think about "social marketing" and try to get stories that feature IFAS/cross-university collaborations in the glossy magazines of other colleges.

8. In response to a question from a Faculty Council member about progress in improving post-award handling of grants, Sr. VP Cheek said that the whole grant-handling process is not good, not just post award, and that this is a university-wide problem. A new paradigm has been developed for handling grants (using funding agency-specific specialists) but has not yet been approved. The new PeopleSoft grants report should give faculty more of the information that we need. The PeopleSoft-related problems with grants should be resolved by February 2007 after which time changes in administration of grants may be attempted.
9. Sr. VP Cheek did not meet with much success in getting changes made in the Fleet Management Initiative to prevent IFAS from being crippled in its missions of extension and field-based research. Hopefully faculty response will have an impact on the final form of the initiative.

Having no further questions from the Faculty Council, Sr. VP Cheek left at 3:15 p.m.

Report on IFAS Tenure, Promotion and Permanent Status Committee Election. On-line voting was very successful with 100 more votes received in this year's election (390) than in the previous year. Chair Guion thanked Paul Willis, Executive Assistant to Sr. VP Cheek, for handling the voting.

Report on IFAS Faculty Council Nominations and Election. Mike Sweat relayed that there are 13 nominees for the Faculty Council. Balloting will open June 23rd for a two-week period and will again be conducted on-line. Opening the voting was delayed so as not to overlap with voting for the Tenure, Promotion and Permanent Status Committee.

Nominations for IFAS Faculty Chair. Two nominees for chair were identified in previous meetings: Elizabeth Bolton and Fritz Roka. Elizabeth deferred to Fritz to encourage leadership opportunities for a young, off-campus faculty member. If Fritz agrees to serve, the Faculty Council will elect him by acclamation.

IFAS Shared Governance and Development of By-Laws. The committee to address the task of writing IFAS by-laws now consists of the Faculty Council and four IFAS senators (Curt Hannah, Jim Selph, Elizabeth Bolton, and Bill Lindberg). Chair Guion will obtain and forward to this group a list of current CALS committees, the most recent version of all IMMs, and the College of Nursing's by-laws. The four senators will be invited to the July 11 meeting where the majority of the time will be spent developing a timeline for drafting by-laws and the mechanics of how this will be accomplished.

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

The minutes of the May meeting of the Faculty Council were accepted after corrections. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather McAuslane (Secretary)