

UF-IFAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes  
18 October 2006  
Red Larson Dairy Bldg., Room 102

Individuals present: Fritz Roka, Mike Sweat, Mike Kane, Nick Place, David Holmes, Gail Kauwell, Jude Grosser, Tom Obreza, Heather McAuslane, Bill Lindberg, Jimmy Cheek

Council members absent: Elizabeth Bolton, Samira Daroub, Lochrane Gary, Steve Johnson

Chairperson Fritz Roka called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Dr. Cheek made some opening comments regarding spending on infrastructure and deferred maintenance needs. The amount needed to cover all deferred maintenance throughout IFAS is \$60 million. This figure was not realistically attainable in 1 year, but it ended up that a key Florida senator was able to push a \$15.1 million allocation through the legislature during the past session. The Governor did not initially look favorably on this allocation, but was convinced otherwise and refrained from eliminating it. The IFAS budget cap for the coming year is 8%, so infrastructure is not high on the list.

Dr. Cheek then commented on shared governance, focusing on these highlights:

- We value shared governance in IFAS. Dr. Cheek has given considerable thought to this subject and has developed some “talking points.” He visited with a lot of people, particularly other administrators, while doing this.
- New bylaws/constitution language must be developed through cooperation between administrators and faculty, working together.
- Where we are now: A small committee developed the current document, then shared it with a larger group from the Faculty Senate. The next step should be to form a new committee that will be charged with taking the current document and developing it further, spending time talking about what each part means and how it will be implemented. They should examine shared governance documents from other land grant institutions, and peruse other documents in use at UF to gain a better understanding. Dr. Cheek suggested that he and Dr. Roka share responsibility for filling the committee with 10 to 13 members.
- The revised document should portray the needs and functions of IFAS; each item should be clear regarding its purpose.
- The Faculty Council and administration need to come to a consensus about the document before it is shared with a broader group. We need to make sure it is something we can all live with.
- The Faculty Council and administration should develop the process by which the document is released and shared with other, larger groups (e.g. departments and centers). After this is done, it will be released for approval.
- We should be able to answer the questions: “Why are we doing this?” and “What difference will it make?” In a nutshell, the answers will center on allowing more shared governance in IFAS.
- Barbara Wingo should visit with the appointed committee to offer insight and make sure the document is legal. The document must be subordinate to superseding regulations and rules that are already established at UF.

## Comments from the group:

- Fritz Roka:
  - How will establishing a constitution change the way we currently do things?
  - Most people believe the establishment of a committee to do what Dr. Cheek indicated above is the right thing to do.
- Gail Kauwell agreed with Dr. Cheek/Dr. Roka regarding committee formation, but suggested that the final document create a process where faculty share in the decision making process without getting bogged down in handling administrative matters that detract from their ability to manage their teaching, research and extension responsibilities. She also expressed the importance of making it clear that the work of the initial committee is valued and was instrumental in moving us forward in the process of developing a shared governance document.
- David Holmes indicated the need to make it clear to faculty at county offices and RECs why their input is needed and is important.
- Mike Kane:
  - Impressed with what committee and task forces have done in the past, particularly their dedication to IFAS. There is a lot to shared governance, more than he realized.
  - How does the IFAS administration feel about increased involvement of faculty in what has been traditionally the realm of administrators? Dr. Cheek's response: We must be careful about this increased involvement with respect to responsibility. In general, IFAS faculty have a lot of input into decisions the administrators make right now.
- Fritz Roka: Where does shared governance make a difference? A discussion of hiring and removing department chairs ensued. Dr. Cheek indicated that he trusts group decision-making.
- Bill Lindberg:
  - The process from this point forward is more important than the document itself.
  - Should we adopt IMM as by-laws in the constitution? Dr. Cheek suggested that the new committee will need to deal with that issue.
- Jude Grosser: Can Dr. Cheek elaborate on the composition of the new committee to be formed? Dr. Cheek suggested a 10 to 13 member committee composed of Faculty Council and Senators. Drs. Cheek and Roka will share the responsibility of filling the committee. The product of their work will be a revised document that would come back to the Faculty Council and Dr. Cheek for review. The final document needs to be approved by all IFAS faculty, but the process for doing this has not yet been established.
- Bill Lindberg: It will be important to have "seasoned" senators involved in the process.
- Mike Kane: Faculty Council members who have been around longer than the newly-appointed ones should be involved since they have a memory of its beginnings and evolution.
- David Holmes: The fact that numerous faculty are not clamoring for a shared governance document indicates that most IFAS people are pretty happy with the way things are now.

Summary: Drs. Cheek and Roka will think about potential appointees for the new committee and will get in touch with one another in a couple of weeks. Dr. Roka indicated the need for some

help and advice regarding the best potential committee members. He asked the group to also think about the same things he will be thinking of.

At this point Dr. Cheek left the meeting, and Dr. Joe Joyce entered to discuss the allocation of \$15 million for renovations and repairs and other items regarding IFAS operations.

Dr. Joyce's handed out four documents: 1) UF/IFAS critical deferred maintenance needs; 2) State university system 5-year capital improvement plan and legislative budget request; 3) Sources of funds for construction and renovation; and 4) UF/IFAS recommended minor projects to be funded, 2006-07.

Dr. Joyce explained the differences between sources of funds for construction and renovation. For example, some sources have greater limits on what the money can be used for compared with others.

Dr. Joyce presented a list of how the \$15 million for critical deferred maintenance needs will be allocated. He explained in detail how UF/IFAS received the \$15 million. The council quickly realized how political budget dealings become, and how important it is for UF/IFAS to have its interests well-represented in Tallahassee.

Dr. Joyce explained the list of UF/IFAS recommended minor projects to be funded. He has detailed knowledge about this because he is on the space committee.

A discussion ensued about how budgets are put together in Tallahassee and how the system works. One question was why buildings constructed for IFAS cost considerably more than what a private agricultural enterprise would spend. The answer was that IFAS is considered a "business" as opposed to "agriculture." Businesses are treated much differently with respect to permitting costs, architectural fees, etc.

At this point Dr. Joyce left the meeting.

The September Faculty Council minutes were reviewed by the group. Fritz Roka received a communication from Glenn Israel indicating that "metrics" may become a more important part of T & P packages. Mike Kane thinks the administration is looking harder at certain metrics as evidence of productivity, but the specifics they are looking at may not tell the true story about faculty performance. A motion to accept minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The group decided that the November Faculty Council meeting will be cancelled due to excessive calendar conflicts. Our next meeting is scheduled for Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion ensued regarding who within the faculty ranks might be best suited to fill the new "constitution review" committee. Several names were mentioned but committee members came to no resolution. Jude Grosser indicated that these individuals had better be able to understand the unorthodox language that populates much of the document.

Dr. Roka adjourned the meeting at 4:47 PM.

Submitted by:  
Thomas Obreza  
Recorder