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Draft

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 21, 2000
1:00-3:00 PM – 311 Ag Hall

Present: Barbuto, Barrett, Fritz, James, King, Moody, Randall, Russell

Russell called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Barbuto and seconded by Fritz to approve the minutes of the November 19, 1999, staff meeting. Motion passed and the minutes were approved as distributed.

Discussion Items

Student Outcomes Assessment – Fritz report that the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee met with Jessica Johnson this morning and had a good discussion. Student Outcomes Assessment needs to be done for three reasons: 1) to strengthen AgLEC programs, 2) for the Comprehensive Review Team in 2001 or 2002, and 3) to comply with CASNR and UNL expectations. It will be done programmatically rather than student by student. Within a year data will be shared with faculty and it will be ongoing year by year. Discussion followed.

Status of Search for Agricultural Education Faculty Position – Russell reported on Bell's behalf that two applications have been received, and at least six other applications are expected by the February 1st deadline. The competition is fierce to fill a large number of Ag Education faculty positions for the second year in a row.

Report on new Minor in Environmental Communications – Fritz told the group that the CASNR Curriculum Committee approved the Minor in Environmental Communications with the 12-hour plan. Next it will go to the University Curriculum Committee, which is mostly a formality.

Funding levels of contracts and grants – Russell led the discussion of funding levels of contracts and grants in AgLEC. AgLEC has a tendency to write many small grants and few large ones. Marsha Torr is the new Vice Chancellor for Research and she will be invited to speak at a future staff meeting. Dr. Torr has indicated it takes about the same amount of effort to write large grants as it does to write small grants.

Report on P&T Committee Review of Department Head Evaluation – Barrett reported that the P&T Committee had a good discussion with Russell. Every year there are compliments and criticisms, but not enough suggestions on how to improve. Often suggestions that are made are contradictory. Russell expressed his appreciation for the feedback from faculty, staff, and the P&T Committee. He is open to suggestions at any time.

Report on AgLEC Annual Planning and Evaluation Session – Russell discussed his session with the Deans and Directors. The same written report was provided to faculty and staff that was given to the IANR Administration. They were very pleased with the accomplishments of AgLEC over the past few years, and indicated that AgLEC is better focused than ever before. Curriculum issues have been settled in terms of future directions, with implementation proposals in process. The new AgLEC Action Plans for 2000-2005 helped with this positive session with IANR administration.

NebGuide – Barbuto has published the first NebGuide from AgLEC entitled "Motivating Your Employees." (Also, Barbuto has recently received Graduate Fellow Status. Congratulations!)

Transitional Matters – Department transition in July was discussed. Russell said his recommendation to Vice Chancellor Omtvedt will be to urge that Leverne Barrett be named Interim Department Head until a national search can be made for a new permanent department head for AgLEC. Russell will meet on this matter soon with Drs. Omtvedt and E. McBreen to urge an early decision on an interim head before Ag education faculty candidates are interviewed.

Budget Report – Russell distributed copies of the budget report. Spending in the operating lines of teaching, research and extension are all ahead of schedule. Dollars for computer support were taken out of teaching, research, and extension operating budgets at the very end of last fiscal year so that deficit is coming out of this year's budget. And, the computer support will have to be paid again toward the end of this fiscal year. A question was raised about ARD operating expenses, and Russell assured project staff that a proportionate share of funds based on FTE allocation to each project will be provided to cover necessary expenses this year.

Meeting adjourned 2:55 p.m.

Submitted by Betty James
January 24, 2000