January 15, 2010 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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AgLEC Staff Meeting
January 15, 2010
Minutes

Present: Mark Balschweid, Jay Barbuto, Lloyd Bell, Kathy Bennetch, Jason Ellis, Dick Fleming, Jennifer Greenlee, Janice Hamer, Dann Husmann, Betty James, Jim King, Gina Matkin, Donnette Noble, Lisa Pennisi, Kelly Phipps, Heather Stewart, Joanna Story, Mike Wilmot and Judith Wolfe

Approval of Minutes – Committee reports and minutes are now kept on the “T” drive under “AgLEC Departmental Committee Report” for your review. The minutes apparently were not sent out by email this month. The minutes for December 11, 2009 were approved with one “No” vote.

UCARE Student Program – UCARE is a two-year program for undergraduate students. Pennisi reported the student can apply each year (1st yr – 30 cr hr and work with a faculty member on research with maximum 10 hrs or $2,000 collecting research data) (2nd yr $2,400, part of the money would be used to attend a conference and prepare materials for a presentation at the conference). Pennisi had a UCARE student this year who worked cooperatively with Nebraska Game and Parks (budget of $14,000) gathering data for their Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP). This is definitely a win/win program for the undergraduate student who might be interested in pursuing graduate school and it helps the faculty gather research data. The deadline for applications in February and is on their website.

AFRI Developments – Husmann distributed handouts (Appendix 1 & 2) regarding Agricultural Food Research Initiative (AFRI). All indications from Washington show that integration will be a critical component for these proposals to be considered. AgLEC has a unique opportunity to be asked “to come to the table” and be involved with some of these proposals which prepare and train the next generation. Integrating education pedagogy throughout the proposal is critical.

At his last presentation Husmann asked, “How many had formal classes on how to teach?” Now many did. We take for granted what we do so we have a unique opportunity for when they do these workshops that we have some people from AgLEC to be standing on the side for when they add an Education component that we might be invited to come to their table and be apart of their proposal. This will tie us in with our colleagues across the campus, across other campuses and across the United States.

If they see education integrates in the proposal and have a research basis/framework on theoretical learning, Husmann believes it will raise those proposals to the top. IANR’s target is $50M. An evaluation component is another opportunity. Check out the AFRI workshop to see how past proposals were developed. This year integration is vital, Husmann said.

AFRI had a widespread overhaul of this program. They infused a large amount of money into this program and also changed the way money is allocated. Money is front loaded into these projects so they allocate a lot of the money now and they will be long term but there will be fewer and fewer opportunities each year because of the front loading.

Two Letters of Intent have been submitted from AgLEC faculty. With shrinking budgets this money would help a great deal to secure funding for graduate students, for money for travel, and career development.
Teaching Award Funds – Bell outlined the history regarding this item. In August a request was made for approximately $5,000 to support the classroom renovation for the polycom, computer, and computer cabinet. The Teaching Award Committee met on the request and reviewed the guidelines which were developed previously supporting faculty, adjunct faculty, courtesy appointments and graduate teaching assistants. This request was outside those guidelines and the committee thought it prudent to bring this issue forward. No motion was made from the committee. Teaching Award funds of $25,000 were originally awarded in 2007. The classroom system was inadequate and it needed to be renovated before the beginning of the semester, hence, the funds came from our operating budget. Discussion followed about the spirit and intent of the guidelines. After much discussion Dr. Balschweid expressed his appreciation for this healthy discussion and withdrew his request.

External Review – Dr. Fleming reported we are in pretty good shape collecting some of the materials and those who do not have theirs turned in, know who they are. We need to keep on schedule. We had a suggestion about surveying our faculty, staff, undergraduates and graduate students. We are surveying our nonmajors. Survey Monkey will be used to collect the information. Greg Crosby, NIFA Program Leader, is working with us to establish the guidelines and developing the review team. Clear your calendars for April 20-23. Our self-imposed February 19th deadline to have materials to Dean Waller is moving along fairly well.

Update on Open Searches –
* Agricultural Education-NDE Joint State Specialist – Bell indicated they have six candidates at this time who met the qualifications for the position. One candidate withdrew after accepting another position.
* HRTM Tourism – committee not meeting yet
* Agricultural and Life Sciences Communications – Ellis reported the target date is March 1 to start reviewing the applications. The Dean’s Council approved the cluster hire procedure.

International Study Abroad – Ellis indicated 10 students have paid a deposit for the England study abroad in May. He is developing further contacts, i.e. Gallop in London, Farmers Weekly, and other cultural sites.

Reorganization – Balschweid reported the CIT/AgLEC reorganization, after some hurdles, has the formal blessing from Chancellor Perlman based upon December 17, 2009 meeting w/Vice Chancellor Owens, Chancellor Perlman, Alan Moeller, Jason Ellis and others. Balschweid has been working with Human Resources regarding the Reduction in Force (RIF) procedures and services available to those affected employees.

New Business
Library Resources – Judith Wolfe, University Libraries, presented and fielded questions regarding the catalog search feature ENCORE. Handouts were distributed. (Appendix 3)

AgLEC Website Update – Greenlee showed the new developing departmental website using the Content Management program. This is an informational look and the Web Advisory Committee (Borck, Greenlee, Harding, King, Matkin, and Wilmot) has been instrumental in its development. They asked for any ideas or suggestions.

Advisory Committee New Members – Fleming reported Elaine Stuhr is not renewing her membership on the Advisory Council and we need to find a replacement. With the new faculty position with the State Dept of Education we will need another new member. A decision will be made in February. Joanna...
Story will need to be replaced also. We also need the third representative in Industrial Education - a person who might employ graduates. The Advisory Committee has been asked for nominations as well as members of AgLEC. We hope to fill the two vacancies in February. We also need names of the undergraduates and graduate club presidents who serve during their term of office.

Monday Memo – Balschweid reports to help conserve the amount of emails he sends out to the faculty we are developing the Monday Memo which will go out once a week. The items will be mostly business related, however will have some social items including photo’s and listing the birthdays. (Let Jennifer know if you don’t want your birthday listed.)

Announcements –
Dr. Barbuto announced that Joanna Story has accepted an Assistant Professor Faculty position at New Lisbon University in Portugal. Congratulations, Joanna!

Submitted by Kathy Bennetch
Proposing Education as a Component of an Integrated Project for AFRI

Education Integration is...

- A component of a project which should strengthen institutional capacities and result in curricula and related products that will be sustained beyond the life of the project.

- Formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

- Training the next generation.

The Devil (Integration) is in the Pedagogy

Definition

- The function or work of a teacher; teaching

- The art or method of teaching; pedagogics

Content Pedagogy

- Skills teachers use to impart the specialized knowledge/content of their subject area(s)

- Effective teachers display a wide range of skills and abilities that lead to creating a learning environment where all students feel comfortable and are sure that they can succeed both academically and personally.

- Integrated to include essential knowledge, dispositions, and commitments that allow educators to practice at a high level.
The Devil (Integration) is in the Details...

Curriculum Development

- Tyler (1949)
  - Learning experiences are useful for attaining various types of objectives
    - Usually considered in terms of their characteristics, not in terms of their organization.
    - Learning experience put together to form some kind of coherent program...organizing learning experiences into units, courses, and programs.
  - In order for educational experiences to produce a cumulative effect, they must also be organized so to reinforce each other.
  - All curriculum to be organized must display continuity, sequence, and integration.

Student Learning Styles and Student-Centered Instruction

- Learning Styles
  - Field dependence/independence (Witkin, Moore, Goodenough, & Cox, 1977)
    - The ability of an individual to select relevant from irrelevant information in a complex and potentially confusing background.
  - Conceptual Tempo (Kagan, Pearson, & Welsch, 1966)
    - Students differ in the rate at which they respond to questions and problems.
  - Classroom Learning Styles (Dunn & Dunn, 1978)
    - Learning style dimensions such as modality, structure or support, individual or group, motivation, and environment.

Innovative Teaching Methodologies

- Direct instructional strategies
  - Direct instruction, presentations, demonstrations, questions, recitations, practice and drills, reviews, guided practice and homework.
  - Basis for the direct instruction model:
    - Pavlov, 1927 and Skinner, 1963
  - Emphasis is on controlling those behaviors of the learner that can be measured and observed rather than focusing on inner psychodynamic forces such as thinking and feeling.
  - Concepts include:
    - Shaping, modeling, practice, feedback, and reinforcement
    - Conditioning behavior
Innovative Teaching Methodologies
- Indirect instructional strategies
  - Inductive approaches
    - Concept attainment and development approaches, inquiry lessons, such as the Suchman Inquiry Model and Synectics, which focuses on thinking and problem solving.
    - Cause and effect models which look at influencing events by analyzing causality, projects, reports, and problems.
- Social approaches
  - Discussions, cooperative learning, panels, and debates.
- Resolution of Conflict Models, Values Development Model (ethical and social values), cooperative learning, role playing, simulations, and games.
- Independent approaches
  - Learning centers/stations, Contracts/Independent work.

Education Delivery Systems
- Regardless of the type of delivery systems being used, all educators/instructors must still manage the lesson delivery.
  - Issues affecting lesson delivery:
    - Degree of structure in the lesson.
    - Holding students academically accountable.
  - Lesson delivery:
    - Beginning of a lesson.
    - Middle of a lesson.
    - Ending of a lesson.

AgLEC Department Can Help...
- We have individuals in the AgLEC Department who specialize in:
  - Laboratory Management and Instruction.
  - Teaching methods and instructional methodologies.
  - Program planning and curriculum development.
  - Learning styles within instructional environments.
  - Educational delivery systems.
- As a member of a team, we can provide:
  - Insight and assistance in any of the previous topics discussed in this module.
  - Must be included early to demonstrate integration throughout an individual proposal.
  - Saying the "buzz" words may get you a close look, but integrating educational pedagogy throughout your proposal will put you on a higher level.
Please forward this message to the faculty in your Unit.

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Colleagues,

Last week we learned that the FY2010 AFRI Request for Applications (RFA) will be released "by mid-February, 2010". We also learned that the administrators of the AFRI competitive grants program plan to commit $800 million in funding in FY2010. This may be a one-time opportunity for this large amount of funding from the AFRI program. IANR administrators want to encourage and facilitate many interdisciplinary teams to begin thinking and planning for applications to the FY2010 AFRI competitive grants program.

Because the release of the AFRI RFA has been delayed, the IANR Assistant and Associate Deans decided to reschedule the dates for the 5 workshops on AFRI priorities that were originally scheduled for early February. We have also included a "snow day" or alternative day for these workshops...in case the weather doesn't cooperate or in case the release of the AFRI RFA is delayed further.

The revised dates of the 5 AFRI workshops are as follows:

**Wednesday, February 17 OR Friday, February 26 (either day, not both days):**
9 a.m. - 12 noon Child Obesity (Great Plains Room or Prairie Suites)

**Thursday, February 18 OR Thursday, February 25 (either day, not both days):**
9 a.m. - 12 noon Climate Change (Great Plains Room)
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Bioenergy (Great Plains Room)
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Food Safety (Prairie Suites Room)

**Friday, February 19 OR Friday, February 26 (either day, not both days):**
9 a.m. - 12 noon Global Food Security (Prairie Suites or Cottonwood)

Please hold these dates on your calendars. After the AFRI RFA is released, we will send another email message to confirm the dates for the 5 AFRI workshops.

The goals of the workshops are:
1) organize new teams to apply for AFRI grants;
2) strengthen existing teams to apply for AFRI grants;
3) identify specific research, education, and extension topics that align with the FY2010 AFRI priorities; and
4) identify IANR experts that are interested in leading, planning, writing, or collaborating on AFRI grants.

More information on the content and format of the workshops will be provided in February. Faculty from the Research and Extension Centers are encouraged to travel to Lincoln to participate in the workshops. Please contact your District Directors to coordinate travel to Lincoln. Because the workshops will be interactive with faculty participation, the workshops will not be broadcast by polycom or videotaped for later viewing.

Interdisciplinary teams that have already been working together may want to attend the first part of these workshops and then spend the remainder of the time in a team meeting to work on their AFRI application.

Feel free to forward this message to colleagues outside IANR that may be interested in participating on a team and/or attending one or more of these workshops.

Feel free to contact any of the IANR Assistant or Associate Deans if you have any questions.
Library E-Resources Web Page

- A-Z list, General Resources, Chat, & Starting Points,
- New Categories Leadership & Tourism
- Link to Liaison Librarian Contact Information

http://www.unl.edu/libr/resources/