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September 2000 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 22, 2000
1:00-3:00 PM – 311 Ag Hall

Present: Barbuto, Barrett, Bell, Fairchild, Fleming, Fritz, Furgason, James, King, Moody, Parsons
Guest: Edna McBreen

Fritz called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by King and seconded by Fleming to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2000 staff meeting. One correction was noted. Fritz was not at the April meeting. Motion passed and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Fleming distributed a handout on the AgLEC Student Marketing Plans for Undergraduate Majors and Graduate Majors. Discussion followed. Barrett suggested that we seek input from the graduate students on the brochures, etc. that are produced and find out what is helpful to them. Bell made a motion that we pursue having an intern work on the undergraduate marketing plan as outlined on the handout. Parsons seconded. Discussion. Motion passed. The chairs of the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees (or their designee) will work with Fritz and Fleming to implement these marketing plans. They will plan to meet within one week.

Grant idea papers were discussed. Fritz asked faculty to read through them, and we will discuss them in more detail at the next staff meeting. Please give feedback on who are the natural collaborators.

Bell discussed the Ag Education instructor position. A proposal has been prepared for a non-tenure leading nine month plus one month appointment in CASNR. It would be 60% teaching and 40% service. This will more accurately reflect the actual duties of the position. We will solicit letters of support. The request will be submitted to the CASNR Dean's office.

Parsons thanked Dick Fleming, Susan Fritz and Jim Randall for their fine efforts and work in soliciting letters in support of Ag Journalism faculty position. We received many strong letters of support. A letter was submitted on September 14 to Dean Waller for an academic year (9 month) assistant professor position with emphasis in teaching. Fritz will keep everyone posted on this position after discussing it with Waller.

Fritz distributed the budget information provided by Betty Tutt. Special requests will be considered throughout the year. Hopefully, we will be able to spend money all year long as needed and not wait until May or June to spend large amounts of extra money.

A list of AgLEC committees for the current year was distributed. If there are any corrections, please let us know.

Fritz is looking for volunteers to teach graduate summer classes. Let her know if you are interested within the next two weeks.

Barrett presented information from the Graduate Education and Research Committee. Parsons made a motion that AgLEC should change the "recommended" status of ALEC 801, 805 and 806 to "required" in the Masters of Leadership Education program. Departures from this policy must be approved by the Graduate Education and Research Committee. Barbuto seconded it. Discussion. Motion passed.

Edna McBreen, Interim Vice Chancellor for IANR, joined the group. She asked for questions and topics that the group would like to discuss. Some of the items discussed are described below. McBreen told the group that right now we have a chancellor who does not like to reallocate. This is good

news and should help with morale. There is a serious ag crisis in Nebraska, and energy costs and health insurance costs are going up. Budget problems will continue to be an issue.

The prioritization process is not a reallocation process. IANR has a Strategic Plan in place and a series of priorities. Pearlman has asked for a list of priorities by November 15th. These priorities will be very broad-based. We will have until the end of the school year to narrow the list down. These will be priorities to put new money into. These funds will be solicited from the Legislature, the Foundation, and possible tuition increases. IANR will have a preliminary list ready in October, and it will be discussed at the October IANR Vice Chancellor's Council Meeting. That meeting will be a good time for Fritz to provide feedback from AgLEC.

Central Administration has discovered rural Nebraska and is interested in funding things in rural Nebraska right now. The state has some excess funds at the present time so there is a possibility of some one-time funds for projects. Bell and Fleming met with the governor and others today on funding for ag literacy.

McBreen discussed the following reports:

A 2020 Vision: The Future of Research and Graduate Education at UNL Report from the Future Nebraska Taskforce <http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/priorities/future/report.html> *Comments* – UNL and IANR can aspire to be the best. This report listed content areas in which we should focus.

Final Report: Task Force for the Integration and Enhancement of the Life Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln – 12 January, 2000 <http://www.unl.edu/svcaa/priorities/plan/lifesciencesreport.html> *Comments* – IANR will not be dismantled. Sciences will not be taken out of city campus.

Cooperative Extension and the 21st Century Report. Comments – Some say this report is going too fast and others say it is not doing anything. The clientele are pushing hard for change. It is possible that Extended Education and Cooperative Extension should be merged.

There is the “so what” with these reports. What is to happen as a result of these reports?

Searches for the permanent Dean of CASNR and the Department Head for AgLEC will not be started until the new IANR Vice Chancellor is appointed. The interim Dean of CASNR and interim Department Head for AgLEC are doing fine. Things are going well and IANR administration is feeling very good right now about these current leaders.

There are recruitment opportunities with FFA/CDE activities and 4-H activities. Most departments are not excited about helping with these activities and are missing out on potential recruitment opportunities. Also, affiliate programs need to be strengthened. AgLEC has strong affiliate associations.

Fritz thanked McBreen for coming and for the good discussion.

Fritz announced that the two equipment items that we requested from IANR will be funded soon. It is possible more equipment funds will be available in January from IANR.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Betty James
October 2, 2000