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ALEC Committee Minutes

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## April 2003 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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**Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication**  
**Staff Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, April 25, 2003**  
**1:00-3:00 - 311 Ag Hall**

**Present:** Barbuto, Barrett, Bell, Egger, Fairchild, Fleming, Fritz, Husmann, Reimers, Rockwell, Wheeler

Fritz called the meeting to order. Barrett moved and Wheeler seconded approval of the minutes of the March 14 staff meeting. Motion passed.

During Faculty and Staff Updates, Bell noted there is a new alternative certification for Nebraska teachers.

Fleming reported for the Outreach Committee. The March 24 meeting was canceled. A new date will be set after the May 12 retreat.

Bell reported for the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. He has an ambassador proposal from Maggie Miller which will move forward. In the proposal, the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will interact with Maggie as a student representative. There was discussion on scheduling concerns and conflicts with different sections of the ALEC 202 class. There are concerns that in the undergraduate agricultural leadership option knowledge is not being transferred to internship experiences as it should. Perhaps the Undergraduate Seminar in Agricultural Education (ALEC 494) needs to be revived. It has not been taught for three years. Discussion followed. Bell requested help from leadership faculty to revise ALEC 494. Jay volunteered with Leverne and Susan offering to help him.

Barbuto reported for the Graduate Education and Faculty Research Committee. There are now over 100 graduate students—a significant increase over the past several years. Advising will be a key agenda item at the May 30 Graduate Faculty Retreat to be held at Dann Husmann's home. The graduate handbook is being revised.

Rockwell reported for the Promotion and Tenure Committee. The Teaching and Learning Task Force began last fall. The Task Force is exploring what skills are being met by courses, and what will be kept, what will be revised. The next meeting is May 15, 10:00-3:00 in the AgLEC classroom. All faculty are welcome to attend.

Fleming and Fritz reported that the Advisory Council meeting held on March 25 was successful. Council members had a positive meeting with the review committee. The Council wants the ag journalism faculty position filled. They are interested in the Review Committee's final report and the department rebuttal. The Council also felt there needs to be support for additional sections of ALEC 102. What do Council members need to do to support AgLEC faculty? Discussion on these items followed.

Fritz led discussion on the IANR Successes and Impact Report. This is an annual promotion piece by IANR. In the last report, AgLEEC's work was not included. The department needs some strategies for inclusion in the next report. This summer Maggie Miller might help with recruiting. Faculty could meet with Maggie to identify projects that could be included in the report. The report focuses on teaching, research and extension.

Fritz led discussion on budget issues.

AgLEEC will be using year end funds for classroom improvements and modifications. Work begins May 19 making the classroom unavailable through June 6 (Pre-session). Improvements will include: one smaller project with a sharper image; taller desk up front with connections for laptop to projector for PowerPoint presentations; moving the TV to the southeast corner; mounting the Polycom on a cabinet door in the southeast corner; and a new VCR/DVD. Discussion followed.

Regarding the University budget, word is out that cuts will be 6%, not 3%. New cuts will not have the PR time that current cuts such as the Forestry and veterinary agreement have had. They will be swift and will likely be from CASNR. Budget cuts are affecting morale with some people getting petty about the best use of funds.

Susan suggested the Fall Faculty Retreat be rescheduled some time earlier than right before the start of fall classes. August 14-15 were suggested and approved as the dates of the 2003 retreat. There was discussion around the need to do a strategic plan during the retreat. Volunteering to plan the retreat are : Wheeler, Strategic Plan Chair; Rockwell and Barbuto.

The May 12, 8:30-5:00 Strategic Planning Retreat will be held at the Boy Scout Cornhusker Council Headquarters. Dick announced directions: go east on 'O' Street to 120<sup>th</sup> then south to 600 South 120<sup>th</sup>, OR 1/2 mile north of Walton on 120<sup>th</sup>. Wheeler announced that the main focus would be responding to the Review Committee's final report asking, "What should be responded to, what should be focused on?" Before planning the response, he recommended evaluating the accuracy of statements in the report. Discussion followed with suggestions that a time line be set up to look at where the department should be in five years and then backing-up, and also that overall mission of AgLEEC be looked at. The Retreat Planning Committee (Fritz, Wheeler, Fairchild) will send out an agenda in a week or two.

Announcements—Spring class schedules need to be returned to Fritz by April 30 or May 1. Congratulations to Barbuto on his July 1 promotion to Associate Professor. The Promotion and Tenure celebration is Thursday night, May 1. CASNR will have a graduation breakfast on May 10 at 7:30 a.m. in the southwest corner of the Devaney Center.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by Valerie Egger  
May 1, 2003