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September 2005 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 15, 2005
311 Ag Hall

Present: Barbuto, Barrett, Etling, Fleming, Husmann, James, King, Moody, Wheeler

Wheeler called the staff meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

IANR Innovation Grant – Ashu Guru, Pam Peters, and Lana Johnson presented information about the IANR Innovation Grant. They showed examples of their work with faculty who have developed digital environments using leading-edge technologies. In addition to grant funds, design and programming support will be provided by Communications and Information Technology at no cost.

Approval of Minutes – Barbuto moved and Husmann seconded approval of the minutes of the May 23, 2005, staff meeting. Motion passed.

P&T Committee – Wheeler announced that Promotion and Tenure files are due to the P&T Committee on December 1, and e-ARFAs are due November 1. More information will be sent out soon. Barrett reported for the P&T Committee and presented the Revision of AgLEC Department Guidelines that had been tabled at March 11 and April 8 meeting. Discussion. No motion was brought forward. Wheeler announced that he is can no longer serve on the P&T Committee. Susan Fritz has volunteered to serve (unanimously approved).

Undergraduate Committee – no report. Bell announced that they will be meeting soon.

Graduate Committee – Husmann reported that we have seven newly admitted students in the masters program and four in the doctoral program. Comprehensive exams are scheduled for September 18-25. Faculty should coordinate this with the students they advise. We will be submitting a proposal for fellowships and a recruitment grant from Graduate Studies. Also, Amy Boren, Connie Reimers-Hild, and Jay Barbuto are being nominated for awards.

Follow-up from the Retreat – Wheeler discussed items from the retreat that was held in August. Robyn Sites and Micky Wilson have been working together on undergraduate recruiting. Since undergraduate recruiting is a high priority item, assignments for Sites were rearranged so she could assist with this. We need more information and visibility about our undergraduate programs on the AgLEC website. Barbuto, Bell, Husmann, and King will work with Barbara Rietsch to update our website. Also, it was suggested that a focus group of freshman be organized to get feedback as to what they looked for in a departmental website when they were considering coming to UNL.

Budget – Wheeler distributed copies of the current department budget. We are doing fine since this is the first part of the fiscal year. More info should be available at the Vice Chancellor's

meeting on Monday, September 19, about the upcoming budget cuts. Decisions will need to be made by the end of December.

Ag Journalism Position – Bell reported that the ag journalism faculty position has been readvertized. Resumes will be reviewed beginning October 14. He has had inquiries from two very good applicants.

Changes in Extension Publications – Wheeler reported that there will be changes in publishing of Extension publications. No dollars will be distributed to departments. Also, there will no longer be NEBFacts, just NEBGuides.

Announcements – The next staff meeting will be on Friday, October 21, at 10:00 a.m.

A stand-up coffee with IANR Administration will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 8:30-9:00 a.m. It will be held in and near 302 Ag Hall. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by Betty James
September 20, 2005