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February 2006 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 17, 2006
311 Ag Hall

Present: Barbuto, Barrett, Bell, Fairchild, Fleming, Gifford, Husmann, James, King, Matkin, Moody, Moss, Wheeler

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

Approval of Minutes – Barrett moved and Fairchild seconded approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2006, staff meeting. Motion passed.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Update – Moss and Gifford explained that the goal of the GSA is to make communication clear and open for graduate students and to build community between faculty and students. Matkin is the advisor for GSA. The group met on Monday, February 6, with about 25 students attending. Comments from the first meeting were anonymously compiled and shared with AgLEC faculty. Many of the items discussed at the first meeting have already been addressed. The next meeting is Monday, March 6. Husmann and Barrett will attend to answer questions and speak to the group about course requirements, advisement, program of study, etc.

P&T Committee – Barrett reported that the P&T committee will meet next week with Wheeler to discuss his evaluation.

Undergraduate Committee – Bell reported that the committee will meet today at 1:00 p.m. Matkin raised the question of end-of-semester course evaluations and student privacy issues. Discussion. Since student evaluations have been done the same way for approximately 20 years, it was suggested that Wheeler write a memo to Dean Waller on the issue of student evaluations. Barbuto will take this issue to the Faculty Advisory Meeting.

Graduate Education and Research Committee – Husmann reported they met this morning, and nine new students (five masters and four doctoral) were admitted. As indicated earlier, Husmann and Barrett will attend the March 6th GSA meeting.

Faculty Advisory Committee – Barbuto presented the issue of course buyouts. Currently, there is no policy in place. Dean Waller would like to eliminate course buyouts so the issue is open for discussion. It is likely that a policy will be put in place soon. Barbuto would like an AgLEC faculty response to present at the Faculty Advisory Committee meeting. Discussion. Faculty would like a policy, but want a discussion of the issue that puts it in a larger context.

CASNR Curriculum Committee – Husmann reported that several ALEC courses (407/807 Supervisory Leadership, 466/866 Leadership and Diversity, 477/877 Leadership and Motivation, 488/888 Leadership, Power and Influence, 495A Internship in Leadership Development, and 495B Internship in Agricultural Journalism) were submitted during the fall semester and all have completed the approval process.

Academic Senate – King reported that some of the current issues before the Academic Senate include plagiarism and academic honesty. Also, a discussion of ES/IS courses is ongoing.

Faculty governance is very important so we need faculty involvement. Regent Wilson has been invited to come talk to faculty.

Funding Opportunities through the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) – Wheeler presented information from the NCA-24 meeting he attended in January. Integrated proposals are wanted and needed.

2006 Ag Hall Holiday Gathering – It is AgLEC's turn to be in charge of the annual gathering. We have sign-up sheets for items such as collecting and recycling pop cans in the building. The money is used to buy decorations and door prizes. This is a community building activity so we would like everyone to participate.

AgLEC Unit Planning Session – Wheeler will be participating in the AgLEC Unit Planning Session next Thursday. Some of the big issues are how do we do all the things that are expected. Many other majors require students to take our courses. AgLEC courses are generally full. Generating credits is the name of the game, and more and more is expected.

Recruitment – Matkin reported that the CASNR Recruitment and Retention group has been meeting. They are working on a new, interactive website. We have been asked for feedback on where we would fit on that website.

Advisory Council Vacancies – Fleming reported that Jeff Yost has agreed to serve on our Advisory Council. There are two other openings, and Dick is waiting to hear back from people who have been asked to serve. The next Advisory Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 11.

Budget – Wheeler distributed copies of the current department budget. We do have some extra dollars to spend before the end of the fiscal year.

Newsletter – King asked for news items for the departmental newsletter, since he currently has none for the next issue.

Budget Reduction Update – Wheeler reported that messages about any budget reductions are unclear. It is possible we will not know anything until the state legislature adjourns.

Gallup Climate Report – Discussion. It has been two years since we took this survey so we will have the opportunity to take it again this spring beginning April 8th. The “best friend at work” question is important to judge “how do I belong at work.”

Announcements – The Serving Students: Best Practices for Retention of Students workshops will be held February 23 and March 21. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

Next staff meeting will be **Friday, March 24 – 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by Betty James
February 22, 2006