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Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication Department

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October 2008 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 17, 2008
311 Ag Hall

Present: Mark Balschweid, Jay Barbuto, Leverne Barrett, Lloyd Bell, Arlen Etling, Dick Fleming, Greg Gifford, Jennifer Greenlee, Janice Hamer, Jeff Hart, Dann Husmann, Betty James, Jim King, Tom Kraft, Lisa Pennisi, Kelly Phipps, Alyssa Smola, Joana Story

Balschweid called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes – Bell moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2008, staff meeting. King seconded. Motion passed.

Promotion and Tenure Committee – Barrett reminded everyone that e-ARFAs are due by 8:00 a.m. on November 17th.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Husmann reported the committee met this morning. Much of the discussion was about the crosslisting of the Kraft and Pennisi courses and the increased enrollment of classes.

Graduate Education and Research Committee – King reported that we are happy with our grad students. We will be looking at the course rotation cycle for graduate courses. And, we have agreed to accept students from Zhejiang University (ZU) in Hangzhou, China. We have a 3+1 program agreement with them. Students will be provided the opportunity to complete both the bachelor's program at ZU and the masters degree in programs associated with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at UNL (which includes AgLEC). King has been reelected as chair of the Graduate Education and Research Committee.

Faculty Advisory Council – Barbuto reported they met this week. The pressing item is that the Department of Ag Economics has a proposal to reduce the required number of credit hours from 128 to 120 in their Ag Business program. A subcommittee has been formed to look at the implications of this move for CASNR. Discussion. Another item – the rights and responsibilities of Professor of Practice positions will be discussed at the next FAC meeting. Should they be the same as tenure-track positions?

Husmann, Pennisi, Ellis, Kraft, Barbuto, and Balschweid will meet to evaluate instructional improvement.

Faculty Senate – King reported discussions include a potential budget downturn, and there could be serious admissions issues over the affirmative action issue. King may be asking for a sub to attend the Faculty Senate meetings because he has class during the time the meeting is held.

Recruitment – Smola thanked those who helped with the Power of Red on October 11th. King added that Heather Borck and Allysa Smola did a great job at the Power of Red.

Decorating Committee – Greenlee reported that the committee met on October 7. Items of discussion included new carpeting, painting walls, and ways to make the main reception area more inviting. See attached for more details.

AgLEC November 5th Advisory Council Meeting – Fleming discussed and distributed the agenda for the meeting. Faculty are encouraged to attend. It was suggested that the minutes from the Advisory Council meeting be sent to the Vice Chancellor and the Deans for their information.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Update – Story thanked Heath Harding for putting together the Leadership Roundtables that will be held on Fridays from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Today the topic is "Cross Cultural Leadership."

PEARL – Husmann reported that all areas need to be reporting results of assessment proposals. Go to pearl.unl.edu and make sure your area is up-to-date. PEARL is designed for program improvement. Are students meeting the outcomes of our programs? Contact Jeremy Penn if you need assistance.

Budget Update – Balschweid presented budget information as of September 30. And, we have a new color printer in the department.

For scholarship and development, Balschweid needs a short wish list of one to three items from Ag Journalism, Tourism, Ag Education, Leadership. Kraft provided items for Industrial Tech. Bell will be acting department head to sign routine items when Balschweid is out of town next week. The AgLEC Faculty Retreat is being planned for January 7 or 8, 2009. The annual appraisal of supervisors will be in your mailboxes soon. Dick Fleming is being honored by the Nebraska Agribusiness Club for Public Service to Agriculture. The banquet will be held on November 6th. Reservation forms are available to attend (the deadline is October 27th). The updated Business Continuity Plan is now available. Please keep a copy somewhere other than your office.

Programs for students include the Extension Internship Program coordinated by Keith Neimann. Applications are due by November 1st. Students are given the opportunity to work in county Extension offices for the summer on a paid internship. Another program that is available to students is the UCARE program. Undergraduate students are teamed up with a faculty member on a research project to expose them to research. The deadline for applications is February 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next staff meeting will be **November 21 at 10:00 a.m.**

Submitted by Betty James
October 23, 2008