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November 2008 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 21, 2008
311 Ag Hall

Present: Mark Balschweid, Jay Barbuto, Leverne Barrett, Lloyd Bell, Kathy Bennetch, Heather Borck, Jason Ellis, Arlen Etling, Dick Fleming, Greg Gifford, Jennifer Greenlee, Janice Hamer, Dann Husmann, Betty James, Jim King, Tom Kraft, Gina Matkin, Lisa Pennisi, Kelly Phipps, Alyssa Smola, Joana Story

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

Approval of Minutes – Ellis moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2008, staff meeting. Barrett seconded. Motion passed.

Promotion and Tenure Committee – Barrett reported the committee will be meeting on December 11th to review pre-tenure faculty eARFAs.

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Husmann reported the committee met this morning and discussed AgLEC courses in the 2009-10 undergraduate bulletin with ACE changes. The committee took action on bringing the Kraft courses into AgLEC with a teaching option and a leadership option. Barbuto will be providing information to the committee about his new Servant Leadership and Ethics course.

Graduate Education and Research Committee – King reported that the graduate course rotation cycle is being examined and will be posted on the web when it is completed. The "Steps to Admission" are being reviewed and finalized. They should be posted on the web within the next week. We had 14 masters applicants and accepted three students. And, we had 15 doctoral applicants and accepted four students.

CASNR Curriculum Committee – Matkin reported that CASNR has approved the Bachelor of Applied Science program, which includes four ALEC courses. This means there is potential for more students enrolled in our courses. All freshmen in CASNR are required to take AGRI 103 which is an introductory agriculture course. There is discussion about having a similar course required for transfer students called AGRI 301.

Faculty Advisory Council – Barbuto reported they discussed the affirmative action vote in Nebraska and the implications for the university. Hiring processes may be different. The credit hour change from 128 to 120 hours has been approved for the Department of Ag Economics. This approval has been objected to by five faculty members, so the issue will go to a faculty vote. A subcommittee has been formed to discuss it. Discussion. Etling moved that our position in AgLEC is that the requirement of 128 credit hours be maintained until a thorough study provides compelling evidence that a change to 120 credit hours should be made. Matkin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate – King reported there is discussion that a representative from Graduate Studies will now be on the Honors Program committee since the graduations have been separated. Also, there has been a motion to look at the cancellation of the William Ayers visit. Was it a violation of university policy?

Recruitment – Smola announced that we will be attending the Big Red Road Show on February 8th, and we need a movie theme for it. Ellis reported a central academic advisors portal with lots of information for advisors is in development. Undergraduate Studies will eventually manage it. CASNR campus visits

are up. AgLEC received an award for having the third highest enrollment increase in CASNR with the Ag Education major.

Decorating Committee – Bennetch showed the three colors that the offices will be painted. Faculty will have the opportunity to choose one, two or all three colors for their office. The process is starting, and we may have painters here working in December. Other times to be scheduled for painting are over Spring Break and in the summer. We are hoping to spread the expense of painting the offices over two fiscal years. The carpet will not be replaced at this time.

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Update – Story announced that the Friday noon sessions are very successful and again thanked Heath Harding for organizing the Leadership Roundtables. A social gathering is planned for next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at YiaYias downtown. Everyone is invited.

AgLEC November 5th Advisory Council Meeting – Balschweid thanked all for participating in the meeting. It is evident our Advisory Council members take their job very seriously, and we have quality representation. The comments from each group will be revisited at the retreat on January 7th. Fleming also thanked everyone for their participation and asked for feedback on the format. The format was good, and the suggestion was made to begin discussions for feedback from the Advisory Council earlier in the meeting. Nominations are needed for new Advisory Council members as some members will be rotating off. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Budget Update – Balschweid presented budget information as of November 20. IANR administration has started to talk about a possible downturn in Nebraska's economy that could affect the university's budget. If that happens, they are hoping to cash flow any short falls and not make major budget cuts.

Balschweid distributed the updated support staff assignment sheet with a couple of changes in faculty assignments to support staff.

The AgLEC Faculty Retreat will be held on January 7, 2009. Please plan to attend from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will identify who we are and what we are known for in IANR. What is the value we, as a department, add to the Institute? John Adams, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Budget and Strategic Planning at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, will facilitate the session in the morning.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next staff meeting will be **December 12** at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Betty James
November 25, 2008