

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

---

ALEC Committee Minutes

Agricultural Leadership, Education &  
Communication Department

---

1-1-2003

## September 2003 - Staff Meeting Minutes

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/aglecomm>



Part of the [Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

---

"September 2003 - Staff Meeting Minutes" (2003). *ALEC Committee Minutes*. Paper 223.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/aglecomm/223>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication Department at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in ALEC Committee Minutes by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

**Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication**  
**Staff Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, September 19, 2003**  
**9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**311 Ag Hall**

**Present:** Barbuto, Barrett, Bell, Egger, Fairchild, Fleming, Fritz, Husmann, James, King, Moody, Parsons, Wheeler

Husmann led the meeting of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. With a motion by Barbuto and a second by Moody, the faculty voted unanimously to object to the recent College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Curriculum Committee decision to lower the communication requirement in the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences core from nine to six credit hours. The motion passed. Susan will prepare a letter to Dean Waller on behalf of the faculty informing him of the AgLEC faculty's action and the rationale. (Research has consistently identified communication skills to be lacking in agricultural sciences graduates, as well as graduates in general. Therefore, this decision disregards what we have learned from employers through research. It is clear that developing students' communication skills inside of their undergraduate programs is one of the key ways in which we can help ensure student success. It is also interesting to note that the Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources core was approved with a communication requirement of nine credit hours. Finally, since the faculty on the committee voted against the reduction in the communication core credit hours (5-3) with the two student representatives and the CASNR Associate Dean swinging the decision in favor of it (5-6), the AgLEC faculty is compelled to request that the issue be raised with all CASNR faculty.

Fritz called the staff meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Prem Paul, Vice Chancellor for Research, and Lisa Crockett, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research visited with the group. Faculty and staff introduced themselves and Barbuto gave a presentation on "Research Projects and Interest" for AgLEC. Prem Paul encouraged all faculty to be signed up for the Community of Science service. Tom Tabor manages it for UNL. He also told the group that his office can bring resources to campus. It is important to identify areas that are special niches for AgLEC. The challenge is to figure out where funding opportunities are available for those special niches. Prem Paul suggested that AgLEC develop a two-page document to list two or three major focus areas and become top-notch in those areas. It does matter how the idea is pitched to funding sources. Certain words are not acceptable to certain funding organizations.

Barbuto led the Graduate Education and Faculty Research Committee meeting. With a motion by Husmann and a second by Wheeler, AgLEC faculty approved changing the three options offered in the MS in Leadership Education degree program. Most of the changes feature research tool and publication requirements. These take effect immediately, so all new memorandum of courses should reflect these requirements. Option Three is no longer available, unless the student is concurrently admitted into the doctoral program in Leadership Studies.

It was moved by Wheeler and seconded by Husmann that departmental graduate admission deadlines of September 1, January 15 and May 1 be put into effect starting with January 15, 2004. Motion passed.

Husmann moved and Barbuto seconded approval of the minutes of the August 14-15 2003 faculty retreat. Motion passed.

Fritz asked for volunteers to help plan the agenda for the Advisory Council meeting to be held on November 4. Husmann and Wheeler volunteered. A meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

Fritz is proud of the AgLEC recruitment efforts. Our numbers are positive even though CASNR and UNL numbers are down. There is pressure for departments to be focused on student recruitment.

Fritz distributed department budget information. We are on schedule with departmental spending so far. The current down swing in grant activity could affect our operating funds. There is a 50/50 chance of more budget cuts next year.

Announcements – There will be an attic cleaning party at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 17. Please plan to help clear items out of our space in the attic that are no longer needed. ALEC 904 should be a priority for faculty and graduate assistants to attend. Faculty are encouraged to speak to their graduate assistants about attending the weekly sessions.

Discussion of newsletter – what is the purpose of AgLEC's newsletter and who is the audience? The new AgLEC newsletter will be posted on our website and published twice a year.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Betty James  
September 22, 2003