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July 26, 2013 - ALEC Department Meeting Minutes

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July 26, 2013, ALEC Departmental Meeting
East Campus Union

Attending: Ruchi Agrawal, Cheryl Alberts, Mark Balschweid, Karen Cannon, Marcia Claesson, Dick Fleming, Mary Garbacz, Janice Hamer, Kurtis Harms, Lindsay Hastings, Dann Husmann, Lisa Jasa, Lana Johnson, Sandi Karstens, Charles Leslie, Gina Matkin, Dan Moser, Judy Nelson, Marcia Oetjen, Janet Owens, Pam Peters, Anita Schaepe, Brandon Schulte, Shawn Sheets, Vishal Singh, Roddy Spangler, Annie Specht, Roger Terry, Alex Wach, Jeff Wilkerson and Yan Zha. Also attending were Mae Anne Balschweid and Julie Gade (Leadership Resources).

Meeting started at 9:30 a.m.

Introductions and New Hires
Dr. Mark Balschweid welcomed everyone and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

Dr. Balschweid recognized Dr. Annie Specht and Dr. Lindsay Hastings. On July 1, 2013, Dr. Specht joined ALEC as Assistant Professor with Life Sciences and Communication (75% teaching appointment and 25% Extension appointment). Dr. Specht is located in 108 Ag Communications Building. While most people know Dr. Hastings, her appointment changed since the last departmental meeting. She is now Assistant Professor in the Ag Leadership program (50%) as well as serving as the director of the Nebraska Human Resources Institute (50%).

Retirement
Effective October 4, 2013, Betty Castan officially will retire from EdMedia. Her first day in the Ag Communications Building was September 4, 1969, so, she will have worked in the same building for 529 months. She has been an integral part of the evolution of Ag Communications to CIT to EdMedia. Dr. Balschweid encouraged departmental staff members to thank Betty for her years of service and wish her the best as she leaves for traveling, enjoying time with her extended family and friends around the world and generally enjoying good health and happiness.

Thank You Dick Fleming
Dr. Balschweid thanked Dr. Fleming for his years of service to the university. Prior to his 1996 retirement, Dr. Fleming had a wide-ranging career.

- He was the first student trainer for the press section in the USDA Office of Information.
- He served as the assistant director of public relations in charge of the news bureau in the UNL Department of Public Relations.
- He worked on special assignment for the Office of the President (University of Nebraska).
- He was a director of University Information.
- He served as an assistant to UNL Chancellor and later served as an assistant to the IANR Vice Chancellor.

- Dr. Fleming was the department chair of the Department of Ag Communications.
- He served as coordinator for IANR news and public affairs.

After his initial 1996 retirement, Dr. Fleming served as the coordinator for the Agricultural Journalism program and advisor to the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) chapter. He was the leader in the development of the Agricultural Journalism academic program. He was elected to the Nebraska Hall of Ag Achievement. In 2011, Dr. Fleming received the Master Conservationist Award from the Omaha World Herald.

To honor Dr. Fleming and his wife, Connie, ALEC established the Dick and Connie Fleming Scholarship Fund (through the NU Foundation) to benefit future agricultural communicators.
Dr. Balschweid stated that he hopes an endowment would be established to fund scholarships for agricultural journalism students.

Dr. Fleming expressed his appreciation to Dr. Balschweid and ALEC. He reported that he has been pleased with the positive response to the announcement of the scholarship fund and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to work with ALEC faculty and staff.

Situational Awareness by Office Koan Nissen, Education and Outreach office for University Police

Below is a summary of Office Nissen's remarks.

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Stranger attacks are exceptionally uncommon in Lincoln but they do happen.
- East Campus is fairly safe. It is one of the few areas in this part of Lincoln where you can walk out of your building, listen to your iPod and safely get to your car; at least 99% of the time. However, it just takes one time.
- Violent behaviors come in trends.
- Understand your surroundings, especially if you are a front-desk person. Front-desk personnel are most likely to catch the thief or someone who should not be in the building.
- East Campus does have issues with theft more than any other crime. Off-campus people (e.g., transients) do most of the burglaries on campus.
- Keep in mind where you are sitting in a room. Is your back to the door so you are not aware of people coming up behind you? Do you know what is going on around you?
- What are your plans to take care of yourself? Do you know what to do if someone comes in with a gun? Do you know where to go? A person with a gun coming in to the building likes easy victims. It is a power thing; he/she is full of rage. He/she does not care about you; you are in the way. You need to have an equally powerful attitude.
- If the violence is outside, stay inside your building and close your office doors.
- Don't make yourself an easy target.
- University bus drivers have access to police calls to know if there is a dangerous situation.
- Call "2 FOR BLUE" (2-2222) to access UNL Police.

- When a person on East Campus dials 911, there is the possibility that the call is identified as a general university number in Nebraska Hall. Officer Nissen recommended that people contact the university operator to verify that their phone number is linked to their building and room.
- In classrooms, people will look to the faculty member for guidance in how to handle or resolve a situation. Faculty members need to know where they are, have a plan, and make a decision about what to do. If a classroom instructor does not feel safe or feels threatened, he/she should call "2 FOR BLUE" (2-2222).
- In violent situations, the police will come and help but Officer Nissen emphasized that each person should take care of him/herself. The police and emergency responders will assist only once the situation is contained.
- The threat assessment partnership focuses on identifying and evaluating troubling behavior rather than troubled persons and troubling situations.
- Many employees park off campus and walk several blocks to get their cars. They should consider the "posturing" of people they encounter. They need to observe everything about them: how they are walking, how they are dressed, etc. He suggested that people know where they are – the names of the streets – and know their escape routes.

Old Business

Goal #16 Integrate Academics (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) into the Agricultural Education Teacher Preparation Program Update

Dr. Dann Husmann, member of the Goal #16 team, discussed STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics – and integrating them in agricultural teacher preparation programs.
Dr. Lloyd Bell is the owner (chair) of the goal #16 committee, and he works with Matt Kreifels and Dr. Husmann, as they are the people who plan, deliver and evaluate these programs. Dr. Husmann explained that Dr. Bell and he work closely with science education with biology endorsement faculty and both are on the curriculum committee. Annually, one to two students graduate with a science education with biology endorsement degree.

During the summer, the CASE Institute (Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education) is held. This two-week event deals with scientific principles with inquiry-based learning (e.g., giving students problems to work on and solve). The participants go through the experiments they will use in their classrooms so they have the confidence to teach these experiments to their students. In 2012, the CASE Institute included agriculture, food & natural resources (AFNR) and Dr. Husmann spent time with the teachers and became certified in that curriculum. In 2013, the learning focused on plant sciences. The agricultural education teachers along with the social studies and English teachers from Omaha Bryan attended the 2013 CASE Institute.

The CASE curriculum is also publicized at the Nebraska Career Education Conference, which is held each June in Kearney.

Dr. Husmann explained that they hosted the second STEC (Shiga-toxin producing E. coli) training for family and consumer science teachers and agricultural education teachers. They collaborated with Kansas State University and the Kansas Department to Education, and eight Kansas teachers attended the workshop. They want to get students excited about food science and food safety.

In 2014, animal science will be the focus for the CASE Institute.

In undergraduate agricultural education, primarily three courses deliver the information.

- ALEC 234, Planning Leadership & Experience Programs: This course focuses heavily on agriscience research. During the 2013 FFA convention, the inaugural Agriscience Fair was held. The purpose of the Agriscience Fair was to build awareness of science through research of current and diverse agricultural issues and to cultivate career readiness skills through the interaction of students, educators, the public and the research community. Over 60 posters were submitted.
- ALEC 405, Methods of Instruction for Secondary Agriscience Education: Dr. Husmann teaches this inquiry-based methodology class. Because of his AFNR certification, he incorporated that curriculum in this methods class.
- Program Development 413, Program Development: Dr. Lloyd Bell teaches this course, which includes the CASE curriculum clearly defined scope as well as the sequence of what a teacher should do during the semester.

Dr. Husmann discussed the longer-term goals.

- To have all cooperating teachers be CASE certified.
    - Currently, 40 out of approximately 145 teachers are CASE certified.
    - Cooperating teachers are from all over Nebraska.
    - Cooperating teachers work with 6 to 10 student teachers each semester.
- It is important to have the cooperating teachers be CASE certified so that the students experience what they were taught on campus. UNL faculty members know what and how CASE certified teachers are teaching, so they are confident these teachers are using a hands-on activity based curriculum that is heavy in the STEM areas.

EdMedia Update

Brandon Schulte, EdMedia Director, indicated he did not yet have the 2012-13 fiscal year financial or statistical information to share with the attendees so he would focus on programmatic activities.

- Event registration management system
    - EdMedia took over this program in May 2013.
    - Sandi Karstens and Shawn Sheets are responsible for this program.
    - Through the system, EdMedia can receive and process secure payments and registrations from outside the university.
    - The system integrates with UNL Marketplace and online/distance education courses.
    - The system provides the option to integrate with news releases, streaming, publications, graphic design, websites, etc.
    - The system can handle conferences.
    - The event does not need to be a UNL activity.
    - EdMedia, through the ASSIST Business Center, handles all accounting (e.g., invoices, credit card payments).
    - More information is available from Sandi or Shawn or people can go to the website at https://eventplanning.unl.edu/.

- Online/distance education program
    - In a recent survey of college presidents, three quarters indicated their institutions offered online/distance courses. They expect that within the next 10 years, half of all college students will take online courses.
    - EdMedia is positioned to lead the way for UNL. EdMedia's educational laboratory is state-of-the-art with a HD studio and control room equipped with 3 high-definition cameras, nearly 1000 square feet of studio space, green screen technology, real-time streaming capability, teleprompters, live uplinks, separate recording studio, and the ability to bring in presenters from around the world.
    - For individuals who cannot come into the studio, EdMedia offers the remote production truck that mirrors the production studio. This allows EdMedia to produce anywhere on- or off-campus. Routinely, EdMedia staff members go into the field with extension and research faculty to capture valuable teaching opportunities.
    - EdMedia has produced multiple classes from Chase Hall giving online students the same experience as students viewing the lecture in person. Dr. John Rupnow teaches the food science 131 course each fall semester live to approximately 150 students but, through distance education, he delivers this course to an additional 30,000 students each year.
    - Distribution points include websites, YouTube and iTunes.

Brandon encouraged people to talk with him with any questions about these programs or if they want information on other EdMedia programs or activities.

New Business

Julie Gade, Leadership/Professional Development, discussed the Effective Personal Productivity program, which empowers people to control their own destinies. The program emphasizes high-payoff activities – what are the most important things that need to accomplish at home and at work. Through this program, people become self-accountable because they enjoy and feel good about what they are doing without being told what to do. Julie asked Dr. Gina Matkin and Mary Garbacz, members of the first cohort, to share their experiences.

The program reminded Gina that to get more done, she would have to slow down. She explained that the program works with each person's personality. One thing she likes to do is schedule her own meetings so, as she went through the program, she considered how to make meeting scheduling more effective for people and more efficient for her. One of her success stories was that she set up an automated meeting schedule that includes the available dates/times so people can select only one date/time for a meeting. The other aspect Gina appreciated was the group relationships. During the two-hour meetings, people talked about what they are doing, discussed challenges and shared with the other group members. With her mentor, she could talk one-on-one about any situations. In the end, this community of people helped her be more satisfied with her life – personally and professionally.

The program is very important, so Mary stated that you don't have time not to do this. For her, this was an introspective process. It helped her slow down, set goals, and consider how she was going to accomplish her goals. Mary explained that an exercise had the participants chart (1 to 10) where they were with home, work, ethics, family, spiritual, etc., and then connect the dots. If the dot-connection process did not create a circle, it meant that the person was more focused on one aspect (e.g., work as

opposed to home). If so, the person needed to consider what to do differently to bring more balance into the life aspects. Another feature of the program is the celebration of successes and being proud of work. The participants were encouraged to be proud of what they had accomplished, determine what it was important and why it was a success. Mary emphasized that this was empowering!

Julie noted that life goes by so quickly. She explained this process helps participants slow down in order to reflect on what they are about so they can determine what they want to accomplish in their lives. If they don't, they get in a routine (get up, go to work, come home, eat, go to bed, …) and then, years later, they wondering where the time went. Through this process, participants reflect what is important to them, determine what the high-payoff activities are in their lives and then figure out how to get more of those activities. They are committed and accept no excuses.

No Announcements

Meeting adjourned