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November 2005 - Staff Meeting Minutes

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Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication
Staff Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 18, 2005
311 Ag Hall

Present: Barrett, Bell, Fairchild, Fleming, James, King, Matkin, Wheeler

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

Approval of Minutes – King moved and Matkin seconded approval of the minutes (with one correction – Matkin was present) of the October 21st staff meeting. Motion passed.

P&T Committee – Barrett reported that the P&T committee will be meeting on Thursday, December 8, to discuss the two tenure files that are due from faculty on December 1st.

Undergraduate Committee – Bell reported that the committee met this morning and discussed PEARL. This is a new assessment program being piloted by the College of Education and Human Sciences and CASNR. We have been doing assessment for several years in the department at the request of CASNR. The new pilot program is intended for program improvement within units. Program leaders from AgLEC will be Dick Fleming – Ag Journalism, Jay Barbuto – Leadership, and Lloyd Bell – Teacher Education. Three major outcomes will be identified from each area. Another item of discussion was participation in the Big Red Road Show. It is a public relations activity for the University of Nebraska, not specifically a recruitment activity. The Undergraduate Committee suggested that we not participate. Discussion. King volunteered to be the point person and suggested some intergenerational activities such as singing songs. Also, Bell would like to schedule an undergraduate retreat over winter break (the week of December 19th).

Graduate Committee – King reported they also met this morning. Discussion items included course rotation of graduate classes and balance of fall and spring classes.

Ag Journalism Position – Bell reported that the committee has identified a short list of three very good candidates. They have been approved by Equity, Access and Diversity. The Approval to Interview Forms have been submitted to IANR Administration. Hopefully, interviews of the three candidates can be set up in early December.

Recruitment – Wheeler indicated that this will be a regular item on the staff meeting agenda. Letters will be sent to the students interested in our programs from the “Experience the Power of Red” day on November 5. There are two applicants for the undergraduate recruiting position and one applicant for the graduate recruiting position to replace Micky Wilson and Robyn Sites. They both will be graduating in December.

Holiday Party – Discussion. We will have a potluck luncheon to include faculty, staff and graduate students in the classroom on Tuesday, December 13. Then on Thursday, December 15, there will be a potluck evening get-together at Dan Wheeler’s house. More details will be sent.

Budget Reduction – Wheeler announced that AgLEC’s budget scenarios were submitted as discussed earlier.

Advisory Council Meeting – Wheeler and faculty discussed the feedback we received from the Advisory Council on November 9th. We did get good advice but need to continue to be proactive about the leadership option. It needs to be explained better so everyone understands our program. Business wants leadership skills. The AgLEC undergraduate website needs to be updated. Potential students do check out the website.

Fleming announced the vacancies on the Advisory Council and asked for suggestions for new members. Discussion

Budget – Wheeler distributed copies of the current department budget. We continue to be in good shape. We did receive the COPC grant for another two years. This will involve hiring a graduate assistant.

Newsletter – King announced the department newsletter will be finished by next week.

Employment Seminar – Wheeler asked for volunteers for AGRI 388 Employment Seminar for Spring 2006. It is AgLEC's turn in the rotation to teach this class which is held on Tuesday evenings for eight weeks. Discussion.

Announcements – King thanked everyone who donated money to get him out of jail at the University Health Center. He also announced that our application for the Best Teaching Department has been selected to be forwarded to the next level. King also suggested that faculty pay attention to the new general education information/forums. This will impact undergraduate curriculum.

The CASNR Salute to Graduates will be held on Friday, December 13. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. We have five undergraduate students who will be graduating in December.

Next staff meeting will be **Friday, January 13 – 10:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Betty James
November 21, 2005