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March 9, 2012 - ALEC Faculty Meeting Minutes

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**ALEC Faculty Meeting
Minutes
March 9, 2012**

Present: Cheryl Alberts, Mark Balschweid, Lloyd Bell, Kathy Bennetch, Karen Cannon, Dick Fleming, Mary Garbacz, Lindsay Hastings, Dann Husmann, Lisa Jasa, Myunghwa Kang, Gina Matkin, L.J. McElravy, Brad Mills, Judy Nelson, Jennifer Schoen, Roger Terry, Judith Wolf and Malika Yadgarova.

Old Business

Minutes from the January 20, 2012 were approved.

New Business

Unit planning – ALEC Signature Programs/Areas

Balschweid reviewed the various steps that have happened previously from the Chancellor's challenge and goals to the University. The Institute is projected to hire 60-70 faculty in the next 5 years. The charge is to identify the signature areas and the signature programs that ALEC offers.

ALEC has been asked to provide what the societal impact is on public value, a program description, why the taxpayers or industry should support this, and what the impacts are on UNL's goals for 2017 and the expertise required. They are due March 30th.

Balschweid indicated he has visited with tenured faculty in ALEC about the graduate program and the way it is structured. The masters' degree is administered through ALEC but the doctoral program is a specialization and goes through CEHS. ALEC has robust numbers in the Ph.D. program but ALEC does not get credit. Is it time to move this program to CASNR and specifically to ALEC?

Balschweid asked the faculty for their perspective and recommendations for the signature areas and potential growth opportunities. Some discussion key points are listed below:

Ag Leadership –

- Opportunity for crossover and collaboration in ALEC programs to take advantage of leadership and communication together. Could ALEC strengthen the units appeal to other units who might add value to grants or research or other projects across campus? Can ALEC leverage departmental programs to students that are attracted to a broader concept of leadership studies?
- Change and innovation - ALEC has expertise in cultural competence, leadership theory, youth leadership development, and civic engagement. However, ALEC lacks expertise in change & innovation. From the ALEC Advisory Council members, this was a strong message when we talked about these issues. What separated struggling communities in Nebraska from the vibrant communities were leaders who were able to successfully manage and navigate change.

- An extension component would be a natural fit in ALEC.

Research –

- Evaluation - Show how ALEC can help research teams across IANR.
- Should expertise in research, design, and evaluation be a signature area?
- Assessment - ALEC has more than just evaluation to contribute; faculty have the educational design to contribute to research.
- Social science research methodology – Right now ALEC has 3-5 faculty members with that background.
- National research agenda – Are there any more signature research areas that ALEC would identify?

Teaching –

- ALEC is identified within the state high school Ag Education programs.
- Evaluation needs to be thought of in much deeper and broader terminology.
- With the growth of assistant professors within the Institute, ALEC can offer support to help those new hires to be quality assistant professors, in their teaching assignments. ALEC can add value by faculty expertise with the teaching and learning component and become a natural center of excellence throughout every department in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.
- ALEC 805 and ALEC 905 should be a requirement for any new faculty with teaching appointment.
- Student centered education and student focused

Ag Communications –

- Communicating scientific and complex scientific information is a huge need.
- Starting a Master’s program.
- Should ALEC be the place that offers general writing?
- Ag Literacy
- Communicating systems thinking or translational scientific communication

Discussion continued and it was decided ALEC has signature areas and we have signature areas of expertise which are listed below:

Signature Programs	Signature Areas
Ag Education Teacher Preparation	Social Science Research Design
Leadership	Assessment/Evaluation/Program Planning
Journalism	Communication/Translational Scientific
	Ag Literacy Natural Resources Literacy Life Science Literacy

Balschweid encouraged continued discussion and instructed others to bring ideas to the tenured faculty between now and March 30th.

Nebraska FFA Convention – ALEC Hospitality Room – Fleming mentioned ALEC will sponsor the FFA Advisor's Hospitality Room. The first session will be Wednesday, March 28 and Dr. Fleming is seeking volunteers to help staff the room. This is an important opportunity to recruit the students who may not know about ALEC. Bell mentioned this is a nice way to build faculty 60 hour requirement for recruitment expectation.

Proposed Vitae Format – Balschweid submitted a vitae format for the faculty to consider. When new hires come into ALEC they have asked if ALEC has a standard format. The Promotion & Tenure committee indicated there is no standard format requirement.

Committee Reports

Graduate Education and Research – Matkin reported the committee has reviewed the new graduate applications: 6 Masters-4 accepted; 6 Doctoral-2 accepted. No applications for ALEC graduate assistantship were received. ALEC has two positions available.

Recruitment and Retention – Malika reported ALEC attended the Big Red Road Show which had 3200 students at that event. Recruitment activities that ALEC is involved in are now posted in the Monday Memo.

ALEC Advisory Council Meeting – Fleming reported the Advisory Council meeting is April 11 from 10:00 – 2:00 in the East Union (was later changed to Valentino's).

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m.