

Minutes of Ag Faculty Meeting, November 17, 2008

Terry Conners, scribe

Present: Terry Conners (Chair), Rick Mauer, Kenny Seebold, Steve Workman, Rick Durham, Mike Montross, and Kim Spillman

Agenda Items:

1. From Dr. Walton: “The Faculty Performance Review Appeals Committee for the College of Agriculture consists of five members and an alternate. The current committee chaired by Deborah Witham with members David Van Sandford, Craig Infanger, Donna Smith and Doug Archbold have served their two year term. A new committee is needed for the 2009-2010 calendar years. Please provide nominees from each department of the college. I’d like to have these names by the end of 2008.”
 - a. Those present nominated the following tenured faculty from their departments:
 - i. Forestry: Jim Ringe
 - ii. Plant Pathology: Michael Goodin
 - iii. BAE: Larry Wells
 - iv. Horticulture: Bruce Downie
 - v. Merchandising: Susan Michaelman
 - vi. Community and Leadership Development: Ron Hustedde
 - b. Terry Conners will contact the Chairs of the remaining COA departments to get one tenured nominee from each, and the list will then be submitted to Dr. Walton before the end of the year.
2. Guidelines on chair terms and appointments
 - a. This topic concerns a memo dated November 5, 2008 from Scott Smith to Faculty, College of Agriculture concerning Dr. Smith’s thoughts on reappointment and appointment of department Chairs and their terms of service. There was some discussion about the function of the search committee proposed in sections 5.c and 5.d, to the effect that this is a good place for faculty input about chair adequacy and fairness. It’s also good to have a search committee because this might encourage internal candidates to put themselves forward for consideration. Overall, the AFC finds that the changes since the last viewing of this document look good. We have no further changes to suggest, or comments.
3. Teaching overload and compensation memo
 - a. This topic concerns an undated memo from Mike Mullen and Scott Smith to Department Chairs, Ag Faculty Council and College Administrators concerning Teaching Overload and Compensation. Neither Rick Mauer nor Terry Conners remembers seeing it last year.
 - b. The AFC generally likes this document, but we’re individually unfamiliar with how teaching overload and compensation have been conducted in the

past. Some specific examples of use and (possibly) abuse would be useful to aid our understanding. We will recommend to Dr. Smith that he should circulate the proposal to the faculty for comment; Terry Connors will email Dr. Smith about this.

4. Rules of Procedure: Report from Rick's subcommittee
 - a. This committee was inactive during the past month.
5. Rules of Procedure: Comments about Performance Review procedural revisions
 - a. The subcommittee reviewing the changes proposed by Terry Connors were in favor of the document, and there was a thoughtful discussion about the way performance reviews are conducted presently. Some points were generally favored by the entire committee (such as having an evaluation with the department Chair before any evaluation paperwork is forwarded). The rest of the suggestions had less unanimous support, but no real opposition either. The committee suggested we send the proposal to Dr. Walton for review and suggestions. Terry Connors will act on this.
6. Looming ahead:
 - a. Next elections for Ag Faculty Council (~ March)
 - i. Mentioned briefly
 - b. Another election for COA Senators (~ March)
 - i. Mentioned briefly
 - c. Tenure and Promotion Workshop (~ February?)
 - i. Needed: Date when the Dean and Associate Deans are available; also needed: participation from College Area Representatives. Written information is needed from presenters. Kim Spillman and Rick Durham volunteered to help organize this, and Cheryl Mimbs was seconded based on a recollection that she wanted to help with this. Cheryl was nominated to the chairmanship of the preparations committee if she is willing to assume the responsibilities.
 - ii. Make sure the Deans are all invited!
 - d. "Rotary Club"-style meeting (February)
 - i. This is intended as a social function foremost, to foster networking among new faculty.
 - ii. Kenny Seebold and Rick Mauer volunteered to take care of preparations.
 - iii. A luncheon-style event is envisioned, with first-and second-year faculty attending. Perhaps 20 faculty in all?
 - iv. Find a speaker: Steve Isaacs (AG Econ) would be good.
 - v. Location: Good Barn, presumably
 - vi. Invite the Deans, Dr. Smith in particular. If he's unavailable, the event might still proceed according to current thought.

7. Any other business?

- a. The Rules of Procedure might be able to be voted upon when the COA elections are held for the new AFC representatives. We have some more work to do first.
- b. The Deans' Question and Answer session went well. Two counts (Rick Mauer and Terry Conners) estimated total faculty attendance as about 75–80 people.
- c. The next meeting date will be January 12, 2009. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m., and the location will (once again) be in the conference room of the Forestry Department (217 T.P. Cooper Building)**
- d. In January: Put out a call for AFC nominees.
- e. In February: Put out a call for UK Senate nominees.

