

Ag Faculty Council Meeting
September 8th, 2010
Secretary: Tom Mueller

Members Present: Ric Bessin (chair), Chris Barton, Tim Coolong, Vanessa Jackson, Brian Lee, Chad Lee, Claudia Heath, Kenny Seebold, and Tim Stombaugh

Minutes of the July 13, 2010 were approved by unanimous decision.

Handling of the written comments of course evaluation. We reviewed a list of responses from department chairs regarding the departmental procedures for handling course evaluations. The only concern that was expressed was that students had in some cases typed in the comments for the chairs. The AFC discussed whether we should 1) develop a set of recommendations for the handling of course evaluations, 2) establish rules for the handling of course evaluations, or 3) do nothing. The AFC took into consideration that the department chair whose actions precipitated this discussion was new at the time and has indicated that raw comments from student evaluations will not be sent out again to the entire faculty. The agricultural faculty counsel decided not to take action.

Discussion of Subbaswamy's memo about Administrative Regulations (date: August 19, 2010; RE: Changes in Administrative Regulation (AR) 2.9 – Lecture Series Faculty – Actions Needed). We discussed many of the points in this document and indicated that many of these points could be problematic to faculty. It was also noted that there are only about 12 lecturers in the college and it was unclear what impact that this could have for us. We agreed that it would be possible for the AFC to draft a response to the provost. We decided that AFC members will go back to their respective home departments and determine if there are issues within the departments associated with these Administrative Regulation changes. Bessin agreed to contact the departments that were not represented in the AFC. We will discuss these at the next meeting.

Voting privileges in the departments. We discussed the document entitled “College of Agriculture AFC and University Senate Nominations and Voting Privileges” that was created by Lisa Collins and Rick Durham. Bessin could not find evidence that provides extension, research, and regulatory specialists voting privileges. The AFC concluded that if no evidence could be found for these privileges, then the document should be changed so that the specialist categories do not allow AFC voting privileges (unless approved by the general faculty of the college). Note that this does not include Extension faculty who are sometimes referred to as Extension specialists.

Evidence of scholarship for lectures required from departments. This is no longer an issue for the AFC and was not discussed.

New Business - The poll taken to determine the maximum number of AFC members that will be available for the fall faculty meeting indicated that the best date was November 9th. We must put together questions for the Dean.

Next Meeting – A Doodle survey will be used to find a best meeting date in mid October.