

Minutes of the Agriculture Faculty Council (AFC) Meeting, November 8, 2012

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am. AFC members present included L. Vaillancourt, M. Barrett, R. Brown, K. Jacobson, J. Ringe, K. Tanaka, and J. Strang. L. Collins, R. Dwyer, and C. Walters arrived approximately 15 minutes after the meeting started.

Discussion with Faculty Trustee Dr. J. Wilson. Dr. Wilson talked with the AFC for more than one hour about topics ranging from teaching resources to distance learning, and also at length about the potential implications of the new incentive budget model on the College of Agriculture. Given the current uncertainties in how this model will be applied, there were no concrete conclusions about potential impacts on our teaching, research, or service missions. Dr. Wilson emphasized the importance of faculty putting their concerns in writing, preferably with concrete examples of actual or potential impacts, and bringing those concerns directly to the attention of trustees. Dr. Wilson also suggested asking Melody Flowers if she can discuss implementation and impacts of this budget model at other Land Grant CoA where it is currently being utilized. L. Vaillancourt will contact M. Flowers to see if this will be a possibility.

Overview of the CoA Faculty meeting, held on October 31. The meeting was well attended, with more than 100 in the audience. The general perception was that it was informative and useful. There were numerous questions, most relating to the potential impact of the new budget model on the CoA. The reception afterward was relatively poorly attended, perhaps because it was quite late in the day. AFC thanks L. Collins and her office for organizing a great event.

J. Ringe left the meeting at approximately 10:00.

Update on the College RoP. M. Barrett and L. Collins went over the revisions point-by-point. M. Barret moved to propose that the AFC approve the revisions, pending final editorial and procedural checking by the Faculty Senate, and send them forward for full faculty approval. The motion was seconded by R. Brown, and passed unanimously.

Update on planning for the CoA promotion and tenure workshop. The workshop will take place on February 14, 2013. Planning is nearly complete, with most of the speakers committed. R. McCulley and L. Collins are still working on identifying and inviting faculty who were recently promoted to speak.

Report from K. Jacobson and R. Brown on evaluation of teaching at benchmarks: They have already met with Associate Dean L. Grabau who was very positive about the idea. They are now working on gathering the information.

Update from R. Dwyer and J. Ringe on the letter they were drafting to L. Grabau concerning evaluation of advising under the new budget model. A letter was completed and submitted to the AFC. L. Vaillancourt made a motion to send the letter forward to L. Grabau, seconded by K. Tanaka, approved unanimously.

Update from L. Vaillancourt on letter being drafted to L. Grabau on the College DOE guidelines and how student contact hours are calculated: this letter has not yet been written.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.