

Notes of Ag Faculty Council Meeting

April 30, 2013

Started: 8:37am

Ended: 9:50am

In Attendance: Vaillancourt, McCulley, Jacobsen, Ringe, Brown, Dwyer, Barrett, Tanaka, L. Collins

Topics Discussed:

1) Nomination and election of new chairperson for AFC.

Lisa V. nominated Mike Barrett, which was seconded. Vote: 6 for and 0 opposed. L. Collins and M. Barrett abstained.

2) Results of AFC elections.

Sam McNeill, Sharyn Perry, Ryan Hargrove, Bruce Downie, and Tony Pescatore have been elected to the AFC, replacing McCulley, Strang, Tanaka, and Walters. There was some discussion about the fact that HES has been under-represented on AFC for a while. We discussed how to increase their involvement and voting. Mike Barrett suggested that as new chair of AFC he could go visit HES in the Fall 2013, reach out and encourage them to participate in AFC in the future. This was agreed upon to be a good way to approach the issue. It was decided that we should hold a joint new/old AFC meeting sometime in May.

3) Old Business:

a) MOOCs and the University Senate Council: R. Brown spoke to the Assoc. Deans about our concerns on the current proposed language defining a MOOC, that the language is too encompassing and needs to be further refined/clarified. They were supportive of our concerns. We (the AFC) sent a letter detailing our concerns to the University Senate Council. An acknowledgement of receipt was made. It was decided we should follow up with the USC. There was discussion about whether we should insist on speaking directly before the USC, when the issue comes to the floor. We decided to inform the College of Ag Senators of our concerns, so that they are aware and can speak to the issue if it comes up. We thought it was possible that if the USC decided to re-work the language and allowed us to vet it again, that this process might work. Following up occurred since our meeting, and we were recently informed by Davy Jones (May 6th) that the USC is responding to our concerns (and those posed by others) in a detailed way, that they have revised the language, and that they will give it back to us for additional vetting.

b) New Dean selection committee response to our proposal to help facilitate town hall meetings during the interviews and were willing to interact with the candidates ourselves. Lisa V. and M. Barrett drafted and sent a letter stating the

above to the selection committee. They responded favorably to both suggestions and said they will be back in touch as their process unfolds. M. Barrett suggested that we consider developing a uniform set of questions for the candidates. This was well received and will likely be on the agenda for the next AFC meeting.

c) RoP: L. Collins, M. Barrett, and J. Ringe have the changes to the RoP done. We are still waiting for Sheila Brothers to post them on the Senate webpage. This may take a while. In the meantime, they are posted on the College of Ag website, and we conducted our recent elections in accordance with the new RoP. There was discussion about it being difficult to get the number of candidates necessary to perform the University Faculty Senate elections (10 are necessary to fill 5 seats). We could modify the RoP (again) to make less candidates necessary, but that was not met with significant enthusiasm from current AFC members. It was decided to wait and see how future elections go. L. Collins was asked whether there was a list of who has served in the past and when. She responded that there isn't, but that it might be possible, with some effort. M. Barrett asked her to send him the list of candidates and election results from this year.

d) Housing for graduate students and visiting scholars: Lisa V. met with Janine Blackwell and discussed our concerns. Janine shares them. The Graduate School has arranged some accommodations with a local apartment (see below) to replace some of the beds they are removing with demolition and new construction, but it appears the university administration is not overly concerned about this issue. We don't know whether there has been any response to the Chair of Chairs letter. Our group raised several concerns with contracting with a local apartment complex: is the pricing similar to current prices, are the leases short-term, are they furnished, what about families, are they within walking distance or on a decent bus route? Lisa V. asked whether our College could use some existing buildings to satisfy this need by our faculty. It was suggested that we reach out to Mike Reed, the international working group, and the Office of International Affairs to find out more about the numbers of people impacted, solutions they have considered, etc.

"The University has obtained a master lease with University Trails apartment complex, 845 Red Mile Rd, for use by single graduate and professional students next year. The rooms will be \$475 per room, in a 4 BR, 2 BA apartment. Lockable bedrooms, 2 rooms share one bath. Common areas include LR, DR, cable with HBO, wifi, DW, washers and dryers in complex, workout room, study computer room. There are 200 beds in 50 apartments."

4) ***New Business:***

We discussed the new campus master plan. At the college-wide meeting, several people voiced concerns that we (Agriculture) seemed cutoff from the rest of campus, that while main campus will become more pedestrian-friendly our access to them is not currently enhanced. Again, the current international housing will be torn down and replaced with athletic fields (and there doesn't seem to be a plan to rebuild international housing). The current plan doesn't seem to consider the need

for our vehicles to access our buildings, there is no designated transit loop, etc. Lisa V. wrote substantial comments on the website and received a response. She strongly encouraged others to pursue the plan and write feedback.