

AFC meeting with the Deans. August 2013.

Attending:

Dean of the CAFE: Scott Smith  
Associate Dean for Research: Nancy Cox  
Assistant to the Deans: Lisa Collins  
Tony Pescatori  
Sharyn Perry  
Krista Jacobsen  
Bruce Downie

Associate Dean for Instruction: Larry Grabeau  
Associate Dean for Extension: Jimmy Henning  
AFC Chair: Mike Barrett  
Jim Ringe  
Robertta Dwyer  
Ryan Hargrove

Meeting opened by Mike Barrett

Introductions

Opening of the conversation was with Dean Smith describing the role of the AFC and its past significance in assisting in the College governance. Historically the relationship between the faculty and the administration in the college has been good. This probably stems from the transparency with which college issues are presented to the faculty and the capacity of past AFCs to balance faculty representation and advocacy with assistance in actual governance. Lisa Collins was singled out as a person tireless in striving to promote open, effective communication between both parties. The University Senate sees the AFC as the voice of the faculty. The administration values the AFC for cooperative work in governing the college as well as for the exchange of information providing timely insight into the thoughts of the faculty.

Jimmy Henning: His office represents Extension in the State, not just at UK. The extensive network of individuals tied to UK Extension can and do represent a network that can be used to leverage grants and educational efforts out in the State. His office also has a process of identifying the resources required and need for, educational efforts in the State.

Nancy Cox: Research not just looking at increasing funds for the last few years but concentrating on quality as well as quantity. Looking into how to spend grants more efficiently i.e. spend down does not occur on some grants resulting in the College giving back hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Larry Grabeau: His office is heavily engaged at the moment with activities supporting education this week. Monday was the meeting for TA instructions. Tuesday is new student orientation. This year, while the numbers are still in a state of flux, it looks like enrollment is up for freshmen and up for total admissions as well. There have been many upgrades recently to our classrooms that those teaching courses will be sure to appreciate.

The floor was then opened for discussion and questions.

Tony: Wanted to be sure that Larry and Scott were aware that, as one of the individuals involved in teaching, he is very supportive of classroom upgrades as are the students that have spoken with him on this subject.

Rebecca: Has Scott had any interactions with the new Provost?

Scott: Yes, three occasions, including interviews. Too early to say for sure as she is just getting started but she has been working very closely with the Deans thus far. We will see what her priorities become later, other than a strategic plan for the University which is her bailiwick.

Mike: Spring meeting with the Provost is still on from the point of view of the AFC.

Scott: Supportive of doing this.

Mike: Fall Faculty meeting, new faculty workshop (NFWS) and the Promotion and Tenure Workshop are all events involving the AFC, any comments?

Scott: At a time when the University is doing it as well the college doesn't have a specific start day for new faculty so some of the "new" faculty have been here for awhile and may not find it useful. That said, it is a good exercise nonetheless in that it is welcoming.

Nancy: Yes, although only one half of the names that were on the list of "new" faculty actually attended.

Mike: Difficulties for those in Princeton, Quicksand, etc. to attend.

Jimmy: Quarterly new faculty workshop, we could try to sync this with the NFWS.

Scott: Is there really a better time of year than when we hold this? The major message to the incoming could be in the event itself and the content is useful. What should we do in the front end, if anything? Mentoring, and advising.

Nancy: Here is our website, here is what we do. VP for research has a grants work shop. We are not on their list of invitees to their University Work shop on grants, but have been trying to get on this for awhile.

Larry: There is a work shop for education as well that seems to be well appreciated by those that take it. The new faculty work shop does send the message that the Administration and Faculty are concerned and caring about "you" getting off to a good start.

Tony: The budget and the hoops to jump through for MS and PhD recruitment are daunting and, as they typically come later in the year, are largely a learn by doing experience.

Roberta: Larry, anymore news from the president on the current funding policy dollars for student contact hours?

Larry: Open question.

Scott: Current year's model stays the same. Everyone pays out of state tuition for summer school which was not the case previously. The Departments holding the summer school classes get a large chunk of this money back from the University. 110-120 dollar increase for each increase in contact hours at the college level. The University deals at the College level. Although the faculty at the department level is who are driving this increased revenue, it is the College that has been getting the benefit but how to distribute this is a question. However, these incentives will probably disappear. How many majors and how many student contact hours are what counts with the College being paid by the University

according to what we deliver e.g. Department of Animal Science 280-300 students. Most credit hours of these in Equine and contact hours are through the roof.

Mike: Identified one challenge. What else?

Scott: Other consequences of the current Budget model is a new form of accounting for money into the College. Ask the Provost about this. Previously, all monies landed in one bucket, the general fund. Raises, salaries, etc. taken out of that. Tuition, etc. will now go into separate "buckets". What happens when State Appropriations stagnate, Tuition increases and the University bumps salaries by 3%? Where does the 80% of a salary NOT associated with tuition come from? Difficult to move money from State appropriation. How does one integrate the College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment into the rest of the University? Historically, with the General Fund, it worked. There are only two examples of land grant universities that have moved to this model before us. Iowa State University and the University of Florida. It may work if the Dean is able to go directly to the State Legislature and advocate for funding directly as happens in Florida. Glad this will not be me.

Mike: Yes, but I've seen how it can be negative.

Scott: Also a question of the relationship between the University and the College. Both the College and the University are currently set up for the General Fund model.

Nancy: Where is the new Financial Vice President with the new budget model?

Scott: Who are you referring to? We first had the interim provost in charge, then we hired someone as a consultant, then we got a new provost. LSU tried for 2 years to put in a decentralized budget model and gave up.

Mike: What do we look for in a new Dean?

Scott: I don't know. Higher education has changed dramatically. SAX is everything.

Ryan: Living, Learning Programs. What about the new dorms? What do you see as the role for the College? Any new dorm will be Mandated to have a LLP. Retention, grades, everything good that is measurable has been demonstrated to increase under the LLP model. However, Agriculture has about 30 incoming freshmen. Woodland Glen 2 will be the Ag LLP. Will we have sufficient freshmen to have a vital LLP? What are the incentives? Food and Beverage themed LLP including garden space, extra kitchen room, etc. Nutrition and Wellness could also be a theme.

Mike: Looking back over the last 15 years, something of which you are particularly proud?

Scott: The Agricultural economy in the State, diversification, many things.

Mike: What are you concerned about?

Scott: Growth of the College and Programs. The scope of the College has vastly increased as has the definition of Agriculture. The scope has changed as the definition has changed. No longer just about growing food. Resource management, water quality, environmental protection, carbon footprint, Nutrition.

Scott: What are you concerned with?

Mike: Jobs becoming stressful, the budget uncertainty.

End meeting.