

January 8, 2004

TO: All College Personnel
FROM: Scott Smith
SUBJECT: AgFutures Update #7

Two items of great importance to the College are discussed in detail below. The first segment provides recent information on the budget outlook for higher education and the College. Unfortunately, it is extremely unfavorable at this time. We will make every effort to keep you informed as budget development progresses and, as it becomes necessary, to make cuts in as equitable and transparent a manner as is possible.

While we struggle with budget constraints it is critical that we make every effort to sustain progress and innovation in the College. In that light, I am distributing here a statement and recommendation from the Strategic Planning Committee on a new name for the College of Agriculture. You will see that the Committee is recommending modification of the name and offers three options for further consideration. We request comment from all personnel on these recommendations. Within a couple of days the College Strategic Planning Website will be set up to collect your input and you will be alerted at that time.

BUDGET SITUATION

This is intended to provide you with the best information currently available on the state budget situation and the projected impacts on our programs. Please understand that the most serious problems are associated with budget **projections** for fiscal year 04-05, and that this budget is a long way from being finished. Without generating undue alarm, I want to let you know that the current outlook would lead to an unprecedented situation. This could make it impossible to sustain current program and personnel levels. The progress and innovation we have been experiencing on many fronts could be extinguished.

Current fiscal year: Governor Fletcher has recently imposed a \$24 million cut on higher education to be taken during the current fiscal year. Almost \$6 million or slightly less than 2% is due from the University of Kentucky. If the College is required to cut 2% that is between 1 and 1.5 million. We hope that some of the cut will be absorbed at the university level, but have not been informed of that decision yet. These cuts are officially non-recurring but we fully expect them to become permanent and are planning accordingly. **If no additional cuts are required before June 30, 2004, the College will be able to make these cuts by eliminating now vacant positions and extending and enlarging the current hiring freeze.**

Mandated programs: Higher education and state budget officials refer to most of what we do as “mandated programs”. Cooperative Extension, the Experiment Station, the Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center and Regulatory Services are included; thus mandated programs make up almost all of the College state funding. In management of

the current year cuts, and in applying some of the higher ed funding formulas, mandated programs are, in effect, being budgeted differentially from the rest of the UK budget. Unfortunately, these formulas and cuts worked to the disadvantage of mandated programs this year. **A larger percentage cut was applied to mandated programs than to the rest of the University of Kentucky.** We do not yet know what impact this will have on distribution of the cut within UK. I hope to learn more about the distribution of UK's cut to our College within the next week or so.

Next fiscal year: Budget development for the 04-05 fiscal year is in the early stages. Remember that anything you hear at this point is speculative and uncertain. **However, at this time you should know that higher education is being told to plan for cuts of approximately 10%** (this year's cuts become permanent plus an additional 7 percent or more). If cuts this large were applied at the college level, the consequences would be dramatic. Among the measures likely to be required:

- State-funded personnel would need to be significantly reduced; layoffs would be possible.
- State-funded county staff and agent positions would be reduced. As many as 60 county agent positions could be lost.
- Services would be reduced and new fees considered for the Diagnostic Center and Regulatory Services.
- Some academic degree programs would be targeted for elimination or reorganization.
- Some off-campus research and education locations would be considered for down-sizing or closure.

We are now asking supporters of the College, agricultural leaders, Cooperative Extension advocates and others to make elected officials aware of the consequences of the projected budget cuts. Our positions are:

- 1. Mandated programs (Extension, Experiment Station, Regulatory Services and the Diagnostic Center) should be treated no worse than education overall.**
- 2. If mandated programs are budgeted separately from higher education, the employees of these programs should henceforth receive compensation increases at least equal to teachers and other state employees.**
- 3. The already large compensation deficit for our county level employees will likely be increased under current budget projections, not reduced as statewide leaders have advocated.**
- 4. The projected higher education budget for the next fiscal year will decimate one of the nation's most successful land grant programs. Staffing and services will be cut throughout the Commonwealth.**

A NEW NAME FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Recommendations of the College Strategic Planning Committee

The name of our college should: be inclusive of the diverse programs and disciplines now within the college, suggest the scope of our work and mission, and be meaningful and attractive to stakeholders.

In 2003 the College Strategic Planning Committee was charged with providing a recommendation on two points:

1. Should the College of Agriculture be renamed?
2. What options are most appropriate for a new name?

On December 15, 2003, the Planning Committee voted by a margin of 26-2 to recommend that the name of the College be modified. More detailed justification and explanation is provided below. Through a series of straw votes and polls the Committee further recommended that three naming options be offered to College personnel and stakeholders for further consideration.

Background:

- Merger with HES broadens the scope of our college to disciplines and programs that are not adequately described by “agriculture” alone.
- Even before the merger, the College had evolved a broad interpretation of “agriculture” to encompass broad connections to all aspects of food and fiber systems.
- The needs and objectives of our students and our stakeholders also have changed, from a traditional focus on agricultural production to wider interests in life sciences and health, consumers and markets, community and economic development.
- External leadership, including the Board of Trustees, has expressed an expectation that the name of the college be reevaluated.
- As the scope of agricultural colleges has evolved, a majority of our peer and benchmark institutions have changed names to emphasize the broader scope of their mission.

Probable timeline:

1. (Through December 03) The Strategic Planning Committee considers and debates options and provides a recommendation on:
 - a. whether the name should be changed
 - b. best options for a new name.
2. (January 04) The committee’s recommendations are distributed and input is solicited from:
 - a. faculty, students and staff in the college
 - b. advisory groups of stakeholders
 - c. alumni.
3. (February) Sub-committee drafts formal proposal.
4. (March) Final comment period for college personnel.
5. (by end of March) Proposal submitted for Senate and administrative review.

Names Recommended for Further Consideration:

The Committee considered numerous possible names for the College. Three options endorsed by the committee for further consideration are listed below. Among the names considered but not receiving substantial support were:

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- College of Agriculture, Food and the Environment
- College of Agriculture, Social and Environmental Sciences
- College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Systems

By an iterative process of polling, three options were identified for further consideration. The number of votes received from the committee in the final poll is listed after the name. It should be noted that each of these options have been adopted by one or more former Colleges of Agriculture in Land Grant Universities. Thus, each of these options have been deemed to reflect the essential mission and role of a College of Agriculture some place else.

College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (16 of 28 votes)

Pro: The mission and scope of our College can be defined by the dimensions of food and environmental systems. Environmental systems are inclusive of programs ranging from human ecology to natural resource sciences; and range from individual human development and families, to homes and communities, to farms and forests. Food and fiber systems begin with crop and livestock farming; continuing to processing, bioengineering, and marketing; extending to human nutrition and consumer sciences. The words have clear, common meanings. The acronym is easy to say.

Con: The name is long; there may be some university opposition to the appropriation of “environmental sciences” by one college; and while the words all have common meanings, the most common meaning for “environmental sciences” does not necessarily include the scope of human development and families, homes and communities as we mean.

Probable acronym: CAFES

College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (8 of 28 votes)

Pro: This option is shorter and less cumbersome than CAFES. As above, it is understood that environmental sciences is broadly inclusive of natural resources, human ecology, and most of our discipline areas. It can be argued that the concept of food systems is already implied by the term “agriculture” since this is the primary function of agricultural production, to produce for our food systems.

Con: However, for our expanded group of stakeholders, agriculture does not automatically encompass the broader aspects of food systems: nutrition, consumer sciences, food policy. The word “food” not only represents an important component of HES programs, it can be seen as a key descriptor of future directions for several other elements in the old College of Agriculture.

Probable acronym: CAES

College of Agriculture and Human Environmental Sciences (4 of 28 votes)

Pro: It is the logical combination of the two college names. Almost certainly there would be no external objection. It definitely retains the individual missions and identities of the two colleges. This option would be instantly recognizable by alumni and other stakeholders.

Con: This option suggests that we “pasted together” two independent entities and so misses an opportunity to suggest a new progressive vision beyond the amalgam of two pre-existing entities. It suggests a combination of two independent units rather than a new vision for a unified college. It is one of the longer options, with a cumbersome acronym.

Probable acronym: **CAHES**