

MINUTES

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture
StaffLINKS Committee Meeting
May 17, 2011



Attendance:

Chair Leslie Queary-Forestry

Debbie Gutierrez -Forestry
Debbie Mollett - Veterinary Science
Paul Wilson – Regulatory Services
Patt Thompson – Ag Econ
Christina Goff – County Extension Programs
Lissa Pohl – Community & Leadership Development
Julie Tolliver - BioSystems & Ag Engineering
Mindy Thompson - Plant Pathology
Judi Burgess - KTRDC
Lisa Collins - Administrative Advisor
Sara Carter - Plant & Soil Science
Christina Tawasha - Plant & Soil Science
Linda Marshall - School of Human Environmental Svcs
Helen Williams - Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
Mary Santana - Animal & Food Science

Absent:

Kim King - Agricultural Administration
Kirk Ranta - Horticulture Landscape . . .
Aimee Nielson - Ag Communications
Kym Pope - County Extension Programs
Diane Hunter - Regulatory Services
Janet Lensing – Entomology

Minutes:

Chair Leslie Queary called the meeting to order at 11:52 AM on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. There was a quorum so the meeting was officially in order.

The Chair stated that there were a number of new members in attendance thanks to Dr. Collins diligence in recruitment and asked that members introduce themselves.

After committee introductions, the first order of business was the distribution of StaffLINKS Minutes from the previous meeting held in February. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sara Carter and seconded by Judith Burgess.

Next, Dr. Collins gave an overview of the StaffLINKS history and then she familiarized the members with our recently updated website. She mentioned that StaffLINKS used to be a very active group and in the past years had slipped into obscurity. She appealed to the committee to become more active and vocal as the Dean's liaison with our departments and the COA. She

let the committee know that the Dean's expectations were to have a more active committee. She asks us to be reactive when staff and faculty need a voice and to bring ideas to meetings. She gave examples of the PPD link that Sara Carter provided for PPD support and for the lighting issue at the Plant Path building. She appealed to the committee to reinvent itself.

Next the committee had a discussion of survey results. The survey was very productive with two new volunteers, and the resulting answers giving the committee helpful information and the resulting trends of the survey are as follows.

- A lot of employees felt they were too busy to participate in StaffLINKS
- Those outside of the UK campus feel alienated
- Strong interest in organized activities
- Lack of knowledge of StaffLINKS

The committee discussed Princeton and Quicksand tours and getting people interested in attending the Princeton Field Day. Dr. Collins and Sara Carter let the committee know that if a tour was going to happen it would have to make plans soon as accommodations are limited in that area.

Regarding Ag Staff Appreciation Day, Mindy Thompson mentioned that a lot of employees are not encouraged to attend, supervisors are not supposed to penalize employees for going, but fell pressured not to attend. Mindy suggested dividing up the counties to provide StaffLINKS support. She also stated that there are over 120 county extension offices of COA in Kentucky. These offices feel isolated from the Lexington campus. Mindy suggested that the committee create sub committees to coordinate video conferencing events to help include the extension offices.

There was much interest in organizing walking tours and a Farmer's Market tour each week.

The subject of problems with the custodial service specifically in Plant & Soil Science was brought up while not perfect much improvement has been made. Sara Carter suggested that continued feedback to the PPD link be given both good and bad.

Lissa Pohl and Mindy Thompson agreed to work together to meet with department chairs to get into the different faculty meetings. Lissa Pohl agreed to be a StaffLINKS spokesperson to give a short presentation to educate faculty and staff about STAFFLINKS.

Two new sub committees were developed to get StaffLINKS more involved in its roll as liaison to the Dean's office. A "Walking Sub-Committee" and a "Farmer's Market Sub-Committee"

Chair Lesley Queary's term will end in June. Judith Burgess will be chair and an appeal went out to the committee for a new Co-Chair and a new Secretary. Mindy Thompson agreed to be secretary and Christina Tawasha agreed to Co-Chair. It was explained that it is an understanding that the Co-Chair will be the next Chair when Judith Burgess' term ends June 2012. A motion was made by Sara Carter and seconded by Pat Thompson and Judith Burgess. Motion was passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mindy Thompson and seconded by Sara Carter. The meeting dismissed at 1:17 pm.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 11:30AM in the Weldon Suite.

Respectfully submitted by Judi Burgess, secretary.

The schedule for StaffLINKS Meetings for 2011 are as follows:

February 15th, 2011

May 17th, 2011

August 16th, 2011

November 15th, 2011