FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 4/6/12
Meeting started: 1:00 PM
Meeting adjourned: 2:05 PM

Attendees: Phil Alderman, Fredy Altpeter, Jimmy Anuszewski, Ann Blount (Polycom), Ken Boote, Barry Brecke (Polycom), John Erickson, Jeff Fedenko, Fred Fishel, Luke Flory, Maria Gallo, Lyn Gettys (Polycom), Rose Koenig, Ramon Leon (Polycom), Theresa Martin, Yoana Newman, Ken Quesenberry, Diane Rowland, Ronnie Schnell (Polycom), Lynn Sollenberger, Wilfred Vermerris, Jianping Wang, David Wright (Polycom)

Business Items:

Jimmy Anuszewski Introduction

- Jimmy was introduced as the department’s new full-time IT Specialist.
- Please submit any updates you have for the website and review any requested changes as he is trying to get everything up to date for the National Review.

Faculty and Staff Awards

- Dr. Gallo mentioned the e-mail notifications of the various awards that have been received by faculty and staff (Gamma Sigma Delta, Superior Accomplishment, and UFRF Professorship) and indicated how happy she was that Agronomy was well represented.

Department National Review

- Dr. Sollenberger noted that he would ask the review team to foster interactive presentations for the sessions. This would allow the faculty within these areas to contribute to the presentation and discussion.
- Dr. Gallo reiterated that faculty should plan to be at all sessions unless there are exceptional circumstances. She felt that since this has been planned well in advance, faculty should have made arrangements for routine activities.
- Dr. Gallo, Dr. Sollenberger and Theresa will be touring the Straughn Center on Thursday, April 12. Input regarding meeting room set up indicated that conference room set up with one large table area for everyone to sit around would be preferred.
- Wednesday, April 25 lunch is the final opportunity for faculty to interact with the review team before they report out on Friday. The department will provide lunch for those that would plan to be there. A doodle poll will be sent to obtain a headcount.

Position Updates

- A Sugarcane Agronomist position will be refilled at EREC, Belle Glade to replace Dr. Rob Gilbert. Dr. Gallo requested that Agronomy be included and allowed to provide input on the position
description. Dr. Altpeter is serving on the committee, and he indicated that the description was being finalized, and a copy would be sent to her for distribution.

Academic Updates

- Dr. Rowland informed the faculty that the Agroecology Program has hired a Post Doc who is working on the marketing materials. Once these are complete, advertisements would be sent to magazines.
- Dr. Gallo announced that the Plant Science Undergraduate Program has had an increase in enrollment of ~30% and is 9th out of 20 majors in IFAS.

McCarty Business HUB Updates

- Theresa noted that another meeting is scheduled with administrative assistants and Chairs on Friday, April 13 to try to finalize some details for the McCarty MOU such as allocation of the operating budget for the HUB and other details relative to the work flow.
- Agronomy has identified Paula Cunningham and Kim Lottinville as staff members who will be transferred to the HUB.
- Current processes will likely change. Discussions have indicated that all processes of the 4 departments be reviewed and adoption of the most efficient methods be implemented as the starting processes for the HUB. One of the things that will likely change is the faculty leave reporting process. Currently, Agronomy asks faculty to complete a paper leave slip and submit for Dr. Gallo’s signature and Paula’s input into MyUFL. Since all 3 of the other departments currently require their faculty to input leave into MyUFL, this will likely be the method that will be used for the HUB, so Agronomy faculty will need to begin adopting this process.
- Concern was voiced about the Pre-Award functions going to the HUB as our current process is very helpful. It was requested that additional opposition be raised to this function going to the HUB or that Agronomy be allowed to continue to utilize Theresa for a large portion of these functions (assistance with budget, etc.).

Budget

- Dr. Gallo provided information about the potential for cuts to the department. UF has a total cut of $58 million, which is current year cuts and recurring cuts that had been filled by stimulus funds previously.
- CALS requested input from the departments about how cuts could be met. This information required a very quick turnaround time, so Dr. Gallo and Theresa made a determination based on prior year budgets. Based on potential cut % provided, it was determined that Agronomy could absorb a $10-$20K budget cut to our assistantship funding and still maintain current commitments.
Other

Mercy Olmstead contacted Dr. Gallo to indicate her interest in serving on graduate student committees. Dr. Gallo asked that off-campus faculty be kept in mind as well.

Vehicle Cleanliness – please clean up vehicles when you use them by removing trash. If departmental vehicles (7 passenger and 15 passenger vans) need to be washed and vacuumed, the department will cover this expense.

Interim/Permanent Chair Discussion – Dr. Gallo polled the faculty about when they would like to have a meeting with Dr. Payne to discuss Interim and Permanent Chair based on her expected departure to the University of Hawaii. Faculty requested this meeting prior to Dept. Review, so Dr. Gallo will request time on Dr. Payne’s schedule.

Meeting adjourned