AGRONOMY FACULTY MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2011

Attending:

Bennett, Boote, Ferrell, Fishel, Flory, Gallo, Kenworthy, Koenig, Newman, Quesenberry, Rowland, Vermerris, Wang

Awards Recognition:

Congratulations to Greg Macdonald for being selected as the “Outstanding Educator” by the Southern Weed Science Society.

We have many talented faculty members. Please nominate yourself and others for awards and recognition. Submit to Dr. Altpeter.

National Review Process Update:

Dr. Sollenberger and Dr. Gallo have come up with a tentative agenda. Still waiting on a decision from upper administration on when they will meet with the Review Committee. Once that is set, an agenda will be sent for review.

Dr. Baltensperger has agreed to serve as Review Committee Chair. Tracy Sterling will serve. We may have to solicit others as we have not heard from some and one has declined.

Commodity Leaders are welcome to have team members present area overview to Review Committee.

Dr. Gallo has reserved the 4-H facility.

Please get your faculty brief to Dr. Sollenberger.

Faculty Annual Evaluations:

Dr. Gallo will send an email next week indicating a due date.

Appointments will be scheduled as follows: Untenured faculty, Associate Professors, Full Professors.

Faculty Position Updates:

Ramon Leon has accepted the Weed Science position in Jay/Milton and will begin in February.

Newell Hall Move Update:

Emeritus faculty are scheduled to vacate Newell Hall this month. Dr. MacDonald will have keys next week. Offices are ready to be moved into; we do not want them to appear vacant or unneeded.
Currently faculty have flooring choices – laminate or carpeting. Please contact Dr. MacDonald with a cc to Dr. Gallo.

The undergraduate committee met to look over the teaching space in McCarty to determine needs and potential design. Dr. Koenig will send a slide show with details. Please respond with comments/suggestions. The current plan includes a prep room (for motors and cabinets) and a UV dark room.

The classroom will have a hood and cabinets. This room will be dividable. The back will be tall, bench-style, half-octagonal tables that can be used for lab courses. The front will have mobile, regular tables. There will be electrical outlets on the walls, two sinks, gas and a lecture area in the front. There was a brief discussion about electrical outlets on the tables in front or the floor for lap-tops. That was nixed due to cleaning needs. Overhead outlets were also mentioned, but they would prevent clear view of the front when lectures were taking place. The lab tables would have electricity and gas.

Agroecology:

The proposal went to Mark Rieger. This will be presented at the January CALS curriculum meeting. Dr. Rowland will send the proposal to faculty. The budget includes money from CALS and two other departments. Dr. Gallo met with faculty from Shandong Agricultural University in China. They may be interested in this as a Distance Ed course.

Another “teaching” opportunity was presented to Dr. Rowland by Dr. Rieger. This was a 10-day course in Australia in December. Input should be sent to Dr. Rowland.

Peace Corps MI:

Approved! Dr. MacDonald will coordinate this program. A signing event is scheduled for February 21, 2012. The Director of the Peace Corps, Aaron Williams will be in attendance. Dr. Gallo will send details.

Business HUB:

Agronomy, Soil/Water Science, FRE, Family Youth. Theresa Martin and her three counter parts have worked hard to come up with a “plan”. There will be a Town Hall Meeting to discuss this in January.

Learning Outcomes:

Dr. Elaine Turner informed the Undergraduate Coordinators that all faculty teaching undergrad courses would need to write the “learning outcomes” of their course(s) for the 2014 SAC review. These will be due in April. The department will take one course and come up with a sample once criteria have been established.

T&P:

There may be changes in the Teaching portion in the future.