Agronomy Faculty Meeting
February, 23, 2012

Attending:

Altpeter, Fredy  Gallo, Maria  Newman, Yoana
Bennett, Jerry  Gettys, Lyn  Quesenberry, Ken
Erickson, John  Haller, Bill  Sollenberger, Lynn
Fedenko, Jeff  Langeland, Ken  Vermerris, Wilfred
Fishel, Fred  MacDonald, Greg  Wang, Jianping
Flory, Luke  McCray, Mabry

Sollenberger: National Review Process Update

Dr. Sollenberger and Dr. Gallo are now reviewing the syllabus. The packet should be forwarded to Deans and faculty soon. Please identify changes/corrections/edits, etc. to Dr. Sollenberger. Five of the six reviewers will visit the REC’s before coming to Gainesville. We are in good shape. Thanks to all for working hard and contributing.

Position Updates: IT

Dr. Gallo and Theresa Martin conducted numerous phone interviews. They then selected the top three candidates to have a more extensive interview. Each candidate was asked to visit the Agronomy website to offer suggestions on how improvements could be made. They hope to make a final decision next week.

On a side note, our website had close to 3 million hits in 2011. Further validating the need for this position.

MacDonald: Peace Corps MI Update

Tuesday, February 21st the Peace Corps Director was here to attend the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Cooperation between UF/IFAS and the Peace Corps. This new program includes nine departments and is anticipated to launch in Fall, 2012. There may be a great deal of student interest. The program will admit about 10 students per year so that about 30 students rotate in a 3-year period. As of yet, there is no monetary incentive to take students. But there are ideas that could add such support down the road. There is also discussion about offering a tuition “break” during the time the student is serving overseas.

Doctor of Plant Medicine

Dr. MacDonald reported that the program for Doctor of Plant Medicine is being remodeled.
Bennett: Agroecology Update

The Agroecology concentration has passed the Graduate Council. It now moves to the UF Curriculum Committee. Fairly certain it will pass. FIU has an undergraduate Agroecology, self-funded, non-thesis program. We may have to limit the non-paying students (i.e., employees). If interested in funding a student contact Dr. Bennett.

Carry Forward Funds (IFAS Assembly)

There is no guarantee that carry forward funds will continue after the first year. Faculty who have carry forward money are encouraged to use it before they risk a loss.

Vehicle Logs (required)

Reminder that vehicle logs are to be kept for audit purposes. This is a state mandate.

Marshal Rotations

The department will now rotate faculty as Marshals for commencement. Keep in mind that being a Marshal is a UF Committee and can be stated as such on vita/P&T.

Peer Evaluations of Courses

It is the responsibility of the evaluatee to remind his/her committee to assess courses. This is particularly important for those seeking tenure/promotion. Ideally, this would involve two evaluations, one early on and another to show gain/improvement.

Superior Accomplishment Awards

The department put forward two staff members for superior accomplishment awards. Both were granted. This is a reminder to nominate your employees.

Mentoring Committees

Please continue to advise your mentee. This is particularly important for T&P. Agronomy faculty who have served on the IFAS committee, note that it is evident when packets are submitted without the guidance of a mentoring committee.

Minority Office Resources

Dr. Gallo encouraged faculty to check out the Office of Graduate Minority Programs web-site ([http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/student-life-and-support/diversity-programs](http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/student-life-and-support/diversity-programs)).
Disability Resource Center

If you identify a student who may need help (physical, learning or psychological), this is a good resource: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

MacDonald: Newell Move Update

All Newell employees who have offices in McCarty should be moved.

Dr. MacDonald showed a schematic of the Agronomy space in McCarty. Currently, asbestos abatement is underway. Office space will be approximately 8 X 12. We were given space for a very small meeting area and kitchen area. Plans are to move in June.

Annual Employee Evaluations

Reminder that employee evaluations are to be completed in March. Look for an email from Paula.