FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 3-17-11
Meeting started: 2:00 PM
Meeting adjourned: 3:45 PM

Attendees: Fredy Altpeter, Jerry Bennett, Ken Boote, Paula Cunningham, John Erickson, Jason Ferrell, Fred Fishel, Maria Gallo, Bill Haller, Kevin Kenworthy, Rose Koenig, Ken Langeland, Theresa Martin, Greg MacDonald, Diane Rowland, Ronnie Schnell, Lynn Sollenberger, Joao Vendramini, Wilfred Vermerris, Jianping Wang

Business Items:

Position Updates

- Luke Flory accepted the Invasive Plant Ecologist Position and will join the faculty in early August
- Ft. Lauderdale position is allowed to move forward
  - Dr. Langeland reported that the position has been advertised
  - March 31st will be the first Search and Screen Committee meeting
  - Funding for the first 3 years will come from Centricon royalties, and then IFAS will pick up the position from then on. Funding is guaranteed.

Departmental Vehicles

There are currently 3: 2003 7 Passenger, 2010 7 Passenger and 2003 15 Passenger

- Reservation Calendar is on Outlook, and should be accessible by everyone, but you can also call anyone in the office and they can reserve them for you.
- If vans are to be taken on long distance trips or out of state, please check with Dr. Gallo as she may prefer that you rent a vehicle rather.
- 2010 7 Passenger can only be used for administrative related travel (i.e. meetings, etc.)
- 2003 7 Passenger can be used for field work and is now located at the Genetics Institute in a reserved space. The key is in Dr. Vermerris Lab (Rm 335). If he is not available, check with Jeff Seib as he will be able to access the key.
- 2003 15 Passenger van requires driver certification through EH&S

Temporary Teaching Requests

- Dr. Gallo will create a list of Fall courses that will need teachers and pass to everyone for review. This will be due March 31.

Departmental Committees
Newell Hall Move Update

- July 2012 is currently the target date for the move
- Dr. MacDonald asked for the entire 3rd floor of McCarty B to accommodate faculty offices, etc.
- Ground Floor of McCarty D is where Administrative Offices will be
- It is currently estimated that there will be a $700K short fall for all the renovations that have to be done related to the moves, but Dr. Gallo noted that in her conversations with Dr. Payne, he has assured her that we would be taken care of.

Property Scanning

Paula discussed ideas for improving the inventory process for next year.

- New scanners have been purchased, and the department will have a designated scanner for use. These are supposed to be better than previous scanners, but they have not been tested by her yet.
- She will be sending out a list of property with requests to include where the item is currently located (ex. under the bench in lab, etc.). She will update the property record to reflect this so when scanning begins this year, it may help locate items more efficiently.
- Remember that if an inventoried items is moved, that she should be notified so she can update the record.

Teaching and Course Evaluations

- Departmental evaluations as a whole had lower scores this year mainly due to the Nursing Genetics course that Dr. Gallo team taught with Lyn Gettys. This was the first time this course had been offered, so she is hoping future course evaluations will be better.

Extension Strategic Planning

- Dean’s currently have this under way
- Dr. Gallo noted that information regarding improvements in extension will have to be supplied to the Dean’s within a specific time frame or we can potentially have funding cuts
- Extension faculty will take the lead in this endeavor

Budget

- Cuts are expected, but exact percentages is unknown at this time
- Currently, all state hiring is frozen. Faculty positions that were already in the recruiting process can proceed, but offers are not allowed to be made until the budget situation is known
ACTION ITEMS:

Agroecology Distance Education Master’s Track

- Dr. Bennett provided the history of the discussions and progress of this proposal.
- Dr. Rowland provided a copy of the current iteration of the proposal document, and felt that we can move forward with it, but would like feedback on whether there were additional courses that were already being offered as distance education that could be included. The proposal document was e-mailed to the faculty prior to the meeting.
- After significant discussion and questions, it was agreed that this should move forward.

New Faculty Assembly Representative

- Dr. Erickson was nominated and a unanimous vote was cast for him to take over in this role
- This role will last from August 2011 – 2014
- Dr. Gallo asked that updates be passed on at future faculty meetings

Departmental Website

- Dr. Gallo would like to have an “About Us” statement on the website. She will be circulating a draft for everyone to review and provide comments on by March 25.
- The question was raised regarding how many hits/users per month the website currently has, as well as a request to make sure that Agronomy was currently linked with the Office of Sustainability to increase our hits

High Oleic Peanut Royalty Funds

- Currently has approx. $280K
- Dr. Gallo asked whether faculty would be willing to use these funds as leverage to obtain the World Food Crops Breeder (or other top priority position) in a similar fashion as the way the Centricon funds were being used in the Ft. Lauderdale position.
  - Most felt this was a good idea, but Dr. Haller cautioned that the Ft. Lauderdale position barely was approved, so he wasn’t sure if we would be successful
  - Other ideas for uses related to new faculty technical support

Department Goals for 2011

- Dr. Gallo asked that for the next meeting everyone be thinking about benchmarks for 2011
- It was suggested that we should review metrics beginning as far back as 1990 of faculty publications, grants and graduate students

Meeting adjourned