FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 11/17/11
Meeting started: 2:00 PM
Meeting adjourned: 3:30 PM

Attendees: Phil Alderman, Fredy Altpeter, Jerry Bennett, Ken Boote, Barry Brecke (Polycom) John Erickson, Jason Ferrell, Fred Fishel, Luke Flory, Maria Gallo, Theresa Martin, Greg MacDonald, Kevin Kenworthy, Yoana Newman, Ronnie Schnell (Polycom), Brent Sellers (Polycom), Lynn Sollenberger, Barry Tillman, Jianping Wang

Business Items:

Department National Review

- Dates are set: April 22-26, 2012
- Committee met Tuesday, November 15
- Dr. Sollenberger gave a presentation (see attached) – all of this is in the early thought process stage, so feedback and suggestions are welcome for a limited time.
- There will be 7 review panel members and they likely will not visit Ft. Lauderdale due to time constraints. A list of names has been sent to IFAS with the exception of the USDA representative. This may or may not be the actual group.
- Dr. Bennett noted that historically, the review team wanted to know what the department needs were and whether a strategic plan was in place. One thing that was suggested was to provide the Departmental Annual Review from 2010 and the Research Roadmap.
- Dr. Sollenberger felt that each group should address the question “Where do we go from here?”
- Dr. Ferrell questioned the realism of the deadlines, but overall most felt that if deadlines were set, everyone would work to meet them.
- Dr. MacDonald felt that we should also capture our other areas (Pesticide, International Programs, etc.) and it was recommended to add at least 30 minutes into the scheduling to highlight our international involvement.
- The question was raised about the linkage with stakeholders and whether it was important. Discussion of the possibility of lunch with stakeholders occurring at one of the RECs. The advisory committee at each REC could potentially look into this.
- A Faculty Brief example was circulated (attached) and discussion occurred regarding the format. Consensus was that shorter was better. A link could be provided to faculty webpages and/or CVs if more information was needed relative to publications, etc. Dr. Flory suggested that the NSF format could be used as one option. Pictures should definitely be included on the brief, so faculty should ensure they have a current picture.
- A doodle poll will be sent soon. Please respond ASAP to this.
- Reminder that Center faculty are expected to be involved.
Position Updates

- Weed Science position – Jay/Milton: Last candidate interviews today. Search committee will meet again Friday, November 18 to decide and move forward on a selection quickly. Dr. Gallo noted that no decision should be made until Agronomy faculty had returned their evaluations. Dr. Ferrell will send links to the first two candidates’ recorded seminars at the time he sends the evaluation forms.
- IT Specialist – Dr. Sollenberger agreed not to refill the position formerly held by Sid Jones, and allow the department to fill a full-time IT person instead. Idea is that this person would be more web design with possible distance education, but troubleshooting (computer crashes, etc.) would still flow through IFAS IT. Computer purchases will be handled through this position (faculty will have input on the computer they want) to meet UF’s new policy regarding mobile device security.

Graduate Program Update

- Dr. Bennett noted that the final submission of the completed CALS Ph.D. Planning document was due next week. He is not sure what outcome there will be from this, but he thanked the committee for their work.

Administrative Items

- Theresa noted that the next meeting regarding the Business HUB would be with the four department chairs on November 28. Once the chairs agreed on a final outline, a formal proposal would be sent to IFAS for their consideration. Feedback relative to concerns or suggestions should be provided prior to this date.
- SAS Licenses: Kim Lottinville will handle these renewals or new orders until an IT position is in place. Information on how this should be submitted to her was provided, and it was requested that everyone get their orders in so Kim could do one PO for the group.

Newell Move Updates

- Five Emeritus faculty to move to McCarty B. Dr. Buhr has already started moving.
- Computer room is currently undergoing asbestos abatement.
- 4-H is moving out, and will be leaving their furniture. Dr. MacDonald recommended everyone to take a look at what was being left, and claim anything that might be of interest to them.
- Offices are starting to open, so moves can begin at will.
- Classroom area is being totally renovated.

Agroecology Update

- Dr. Bennett indicated that the final version of the proposal had been submitted to the Deans. Committee meeting with Dr. Rieger is November 18 and then the proposal would be forwarded to the faculty for their review.
- Budget built into the proposal to self-fund the program, although some start-up costs would be needed.

Peace Corp Master’s International Program Update
- Proposal was tentatively accepted by the Peace Corp.
- Expect to initiate program in Fall 2012.

Teaching Farm
- Through combined efforts with the Office of Sustainability (Anna Prizzia), Publix may contribute funds for a Coordinator position (approximately $50,000/year for four years).

Other

1st Annual Agronomy Fall Festival
- November 21
- Dr. Gallo encouraged everyone to come out and support the Graduate students.

Holiday Party
- December 8 from 6:30 – 10:30 at Zuzu Jolie.
- RSVP if you have not already done so.

DPM
- Dr. MacDonald noted that Dean Rieger would be holding a meeting to determine what will happen to this program. Dr. McGovern has retired, and Dr. Leibee (the current coordinator) would be retiring soon. Any feedback about this program should be given to Dr. MacDonald.

Meeting adjourned.