FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/27/11
Meeting started: 2:00 PM
Meeting adjourned: 3:30 PM

Attendees: Amy Alexander, Ken Boote, John Erickson, Jason Ferrell, Fred Fishel, Luke Flory, Maria Gallo, Theresa Martin, Yoana Newman, Diane Rowland, Lynn Sollenberger, Jianping Wang, Lingxiao Zhang

Business Items:

Plant Science Undergraduate Program - Coordinator Introduction and Discussion

- Amy Alexander was introduced as the Plant Science Undergraduate Major Coordinator. Her background: she started in Environmental Horticulture as a Biological Scientist. She assumed this role when Lisa Hall resigned.
- In order to get to know our faculty and department, she requested that she be allowed to set in on some of our undergraduate classes, meet with some of the students, etc. Additionally, she would like to have interactive discussions with our faculty who will be teaching courses in the Plant Science major so she can get to know you.
- She will have access to ISIS areas in order to help advise interested students, but will need more information on our specializations to be as effective as possible.
- On November 8, she will be involved with a visit of approximately 88 students from Clay County who are currently involved in Ag/Biotech curriculum. This visit will be held at Fifield Hall, and she hoped to be able to include a graduate school showcase. She also asked for ideas for the showcase.

Position Updates

- Aquatic Weeds position – Ft. Lauderdale: Lynn Gettys accepted the position.
- Weed Science position – Jay/Milton: Interviews have begun.
- Dr. Gallo noted that there have been 8 new positions statewide since September 2009.

Department National Review

- Names for potential review panel members due to Dr. Gallo by Monday, October 31. She read the names that had been received already.
- Dr. Sollenberger will lead the effort and will organize what needs to be done.
- Program leaders should plan to be involved.
- Timely responses are needed for collection of materials
- Dr. Gallo will provide a copy of the guidelines.
Tenure and Promotion

- Dr. Gallo requested feedback on the possibility of having a faculty review and discussion of tenure and promotion packets.
- Dr. Ferrell asked whether there would be an advocate and the recommendation was that there should be one, most likely the chair of the mentoring committee.

Newell Move Updates

- Rooms continue to become available.
- Classroom renovations are currently in discussion.
- Administrative offices are anticipated to move in Summer.

Graduate Program Update

- Dr. Erickson reminded everyone to respond to the CALS Ph.D. Program Planning document that Dr. Bennett had asked for assistance to complete.
- Committee will meet in early November for more discussion.

Agroecology Update

- Dr. Rowland noted that the market analysis had been positive.
- There is a possibility of start-up funding through Dean Balser, and a proposal will be submitted to her.
- Steve Humphrey (SNRE) is requesting positions that could help with this endeavor.
- A foundational course is still being developed. A working syllabus is available and input is appreciated.
- Targeted start date for the program is Fall 2012.

Peace Corp Master’s International Program Update

- Horticultural Sciences has now been added which brings the number of departments involved to 9.
- Proposal was accepted by the Peace Corp. Revisions are being worked on so it can be finalized.
- Dr. MacDonald will be the Coordinator of this program initially.

Administrative Items

- Theresa provided information about the new effort reporting system and briefly showed what the system would look like. This should be familiar as it will be very similar to the Faculty Assignment Reports that were generated in this system. Information about the commitments to projects was discussed. This will ultimately mean that effort is expected either in cost share or direct charge for each project that faculty have (exceptions do exist, but those will be rare). Faculty will now certify effort for employees that are paid on their grant funds.
• Business HUB: A handout was provided to show what the committee had tentatively proposed in terms of functions that would stay in the department and what would go to the HUB. The potential effects on Agronomy staff could be that all but one staff member will move to the HUB. Overall, this change can be positive if the workflow is properly identified and understood.

Other

Superior Accomplishment Awards

• Dr. Gallo reminded everyone that the nomination period ends October 31.

Seed Opportunity Funding

• Dr. Gallo encouraged everyone to look at this opportunity for potential submission.

ASA Meeting Awards

• Jeff Fedenko (Erickson) C6 – 4th Place
• Miguel Castillo (Sollenberger) 1st Place
• Maninderpal Singh (Erickson) C2-C4 – 1st Place

Meeting adjourned.