FACULTY MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/22/11
Meeting started: 2:00 PM
Meeting adjourned: 3:30 PM

Attendees: Phil Alderman, Fredy Altpeter, Jerry Bennett, Ken Boote, John Erickson, Jason Ferrell, Fred Fishel, Maria Gallo, Ken Langeland, Greg MacDonald, Dennis Odero, Theresa Martin, Yoana Newman, Brent Sellers (Polycom), Lynn Sollenberger, Joao Vendramini (Polycom)

Business Items:

Position Updates (Dr. Ferrell)

- Aquatic Weeds position – Ft. Lauderdale: Job has been offered to a candidate.
- Weed Science position – Jay/Milton: Interviews to be set. There were approximately 7-9 viable candidates. The committee is meeting Oct 3 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss.

Courtesy Professor Request (Dr. Gallo)

- Lingxiao Zhang approved for Courtesy Faculty status.
- He sent an apology through Dr. Gallo that his schedule did not permit him to attend this faculty meeting, but he expected to be at the next meeting.

Tenure and Promotion (Dr. Gallo)

- Agronomy department piloted a new online system, but it is not working the way it was anticipated to work, so packets are being submitted in the way they have been previously.
- Secure doodle vote has been sent, and Dr. Gallo stressed that it was very important that everyone vote so the process can move forward to the IFAS committee.
- Dr. Bennett made mention that the IFAS committee was aware of the delays due to the pilot program issues.

Superior Accomplishment Awards (Dr. Gallo)

- Dr. Gallo strongly urged everyone to submit nominations as Agronomy had very little representation during the last award period. She wanted to see our nominations increase this year. The nomination period runs until October 31.

ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting (Dr. Gallo)

- If you will be attending the meeting, please provide a phone number where you can be reached.
- Gator Gathering will be Monday, October 17 at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Rio Rio Cantina. Dr. Gallo encouraged meeting participants to attend.
Budget Issues/Updates (Theresa Martin):

- Clarification that the 11.95% overhead assessment is a UF tax that IFAS has covered in the past, but decided to filter down to departments due to budget cuts sustained this fiscal year.
- All travel related documents (including p-card charges) should be submitted to Joan Glisson. She will ensure that p-card related expenses are filtered to Kim for processing. NOTE: Joan will be out for surgery beginning October 18 until right after the Thanksgiving Holiday. During this time, Kim will assume processing travel.
- The office has Webcams that were purchased so that all Agronomy faculty and permanent staff can have one and be able to use Office Communicator. If you have not received one, please stop by 304 Newell and one will be provided.
- There was a recent article in the Gainesville Sun about UF having to pay back ~ $200,000 due to inappropriate expenditures on federal grants. Theresa cautioned everyone about this and reiterated that funds should be used appropriately.
- P-card submission procedure and timeliness of submissions were discussed. A handout was provided which indicates the current timelines, and what is needed for the scanned submissions. We are doing this to provide consistency in how these are treated as well as to eliminate the excessive amounts of paper that Kim has to handle. Please see the attached handout for more information, and call or e-mail Theresa if you have additional questions.

Newell Move Updates (Dr. MacDonald)

- Growth chamber space is being worked on.
- The space across from Dr. Sollenberger is designated for Emeritus faculty. Paint and carpeting are currently underway in this space, and once it is completed, Emeritus faculty can move in.
- He encouraged everyone to move as space comes open.

IFAS Business Hub Concept (Dr. Gallo)

- This is still underway, and Dr. Joyce indicated recently that staff would be contacted for feedback.
- Suggestions to IFAS have been to establish this in stages by moving the positions that are definitely expected to work from the HUB first, and then add more complex roles later.

Plant Science Major (Dr. Gallo)

- Amy Alexander is the Coordinator for the Plant Science major. Dr. Gallo met with her and asked her to attend the next faculty meeting. The 3 departments are responsible for 1/3 of her salary. Dr. Gallo will send out the job duties for this position.

Graduate Program Update (Dr. Bennett)

- Dr. Bennett asked that all Faculty continue to review the applicant list, as we have some very good students applying. He noted that the spreadsheet may indicate a faculty name, but that
does not mean that a faculty member has committed to that student. It is just an indication of 
who the student noted as their first point of contact.

- Due to the push for graduate education by UF, departments are being asked to provide more 
  and more data. A CALS Ph.D. Program Planning document was passed out and Dr. Bennett 
  asked for assistance in completing it. He indicated he would follow up with an e-mail to inform 
everyone of which sections required their input. The deadline for input is November 23, 2011.
- Discussion took place relative to the purpose or expected outcomes from these requests. Dr. 
  Bennett and Dr. Erickson both expressed concern that these requests were more about 
  numbers and less about quality. Dr. Gallo indicated that there was likely to be some positive 
  outcomes.
- Dr. Bennett questioned the status of courses currently on the list that had not been taught 
  recently. Population Genetics – no longer offered; Weed Ecology – Dr. Luke Flory will be 
  revamping this course for Spring 2012; Field Plot Techniques – Dr. Gallo wants to keep this 
  course until the DPM program issues are resolved. It was indicated that a similar course was 
  taught by Chuck Semer (Plant Pathology), and was being assumed by Gary Leibee, but Dr. Gallo 
  was not certain if this would remain in the long term.
- The question was raised as to whether Agronomy wished to grow our graduate program. Most 
  felt like we were at capacity (or at least close), and to grow would require more resources 
  (faculty and/or funding).

Agroecology Update (Dr. Bennett/Dr. Gallo):

- The committee met with the distance education offices, a market analysis was done, and all the 
  results came back very favorably.
- The next meeting will be with the Deans to obtain support to move this through for UF approval.

Peace Corp Master’s International Program Update (Dr. Gallo)

- Dean Balser is supportive of this program, so she will move this forward with the Peace Corp 
  again.
- Only major change was that a Coordinator had to be identified, since it was not something the 
  Deans office wanted to be responsible for anymore. Dr. Greg MacDonald agreed to assume this 
  position.
- Projected start date is Fall 2012.
- This program will promote international work for Master’s degrees.

Plant Breeding Graduate Curriculum (Dr. Gallo)

- This would be both a Master’s and Ph.D. program.
- Plant Breeders would support a Coordinator for this program.
- John Soper (Dupont/Pioneer) will be visiting on November 18 along with a senior recruiter.
Program Area Groups (Dr. Gallo)

- Short reports on graduate and undergraduate programs should still be submitted to Dr. Gallo. Original deadline was September 25.

Strategic Plans for Extension, IFAS and CALS (Dr. Gallo)

- These are all happening concurrently, and Dr. Gallo is involved in all of them.

National Review

- We are overdue – last one was 2000.
- This will supersede the Departmental Review that had been scheduled for March 7.
- Request site visits to be April 22-26, so Dr. Gallo asked if everyone was ok with this. Response was positive to this time frame.
- The department can recommend who our reviewers are (6 and 1 USDA). Deadline for a list of names is October 24th. There were several recommendations made during the faculty meeting, but no official decision made. Dr. Gallo has the suggested names, and would like feedback on any other recommendations.

OTHER

Dr. Gallo noted that USDA NIFA released an RFA for Pre- and Post-Doc Fellowships. She encouraged application to this program. Dr. Altpeter noted that the one criterion is that they have to be beyond the qualifying exam at the time the full proposal is due (January).

Meeting adjourned.