

Ag. Faculty Council meeting – December 5, 2013

Questions for interim Dean Woods

- How is it that an interim dean can transform an interim associate dean who is normally an assistant dean into an associate dean? No interviews, no advertising, no competition. It seems as there is a lack of professional standard.
- The University has established guidelines stating faculty can obtain up to 13 months of salary. What are the DASNR guidelines for obtaining a 13th month of salary? Can you please provide specific examples of when a 13th month of salary could be requested and the sources of funds for such a request?
- Why is the sponsored program unit not evaluated systematically by its “customers ” on an annual basis, i.e., by faculty members who write grant proposals?
- In my opinion, our research stations should serve as “showcases” for the research programs of our department. The stations should be managed in a manner that impresses our constituents (the producers and business leaders) and demonstrates our research knowledge and agronomic expertise. Why is this not a priority at two of our most important experiment stations, namely Perkins and Stillwater? Let me give some examples, but there are many more:
 - Low spots in every field that collect water and affect research results--occurs at both stations
 - drainage channels that cut through research fields
 - erosion problems in many parts of both stations
 - encroachment of bermudagrass and other weeds (especially marehail) into research fields
 - lack of good drainage in many fields, so if it does rain, plots are lost due to standing water
 - poor timing of field operations (spraying or cultivation)—normally too late and weeds have produced seed
 - quality of field operations is frequently poor (speed of operation and lack of oversight are common problems)
 - poor maintenance of field roads
 - the perimeter fence near a very busy road (Washington St.) needs to be repaired in 2 places (for more than a year)
 - facilities are awful—look at the Small Grains Building or better yet, smell it. Look at the superintendant’s offices and the shop. Take a good look at the dryers, etc.
 - greenhouses lack technology and the headhouse and bathroom are terrible.
 - sandburs growing next to the visitor’s parking spaces near the Small Grains Building and beside many sidewalks
 - goatheads growing at the base of the stairs at the entrance to Small Grains
 - unsightly weeds on the NE side of Small Grains, including one in mid-summer that looked very similar to a marijuana plant—it wasn’t.
 - old machinery everywhere with weeds growing around it
 - rodent and insect infestations just about everywhere
 - etc.

AG FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
12/5/2013- 8:10 am

Members present:

Jeff Edwards, Gopal Kakani, Brian Whitacre, Rod Jones, Chris Richards, Astri Wayadande, Ulrich, Melcher, Nick Nelson, Sam Fuhlendorph, Craig Davis, David Hillock

Guest: Mike Woods

The Deans response to questions:

Provided an overview of the Division. Identified CASNR and College of Human Sciences as the two colleges that have the highest retention rates, indicated that changes at the campus level are coming.

1) Took responsibility for action, because of the circumstance it was the right thing to do, transparency was in place, as a VP did not have to go to Provost. The steps were taken to insure capacity was in place during the transition.

2) Currently drafting guidelines to address the 13th month. There is a system in place for the 12th month currently and it is a good process. DASNR is trying to return salary savings as the 13th month. Cannot pay yourself a 13th month against the regs and guidelines. So DASNR is looking at salary savings and FA/IDC that come back to the department would be used to fund the 13th month.

3) Financial staff was asked to evaluate last year if you have specific concerns send email to Woods or Kline they are hiring one more person doing some restructuring. Looking at different way of interacting with academic departments. Indicated that everyone had an opportunity to evaluate the unit.

4) First time they have heard any negative comments regarding station maintenance, station maintenance is a concern and is a priority for the division.

5) Hope they don't feel ignored, there is currently not a system in place, does not mean something could be done in the future.

RPT

Steps will be taken to reestablish the AFC RPT committee, AFC members should seek nominations from departments (tenured faculty) nominations should be available for the February meeting.

By-laws

A general review of the by-laws took place. No action was taken, however, after a brief discussion of membership and taking note of a missing Article (Article VII) the consensus was to review and address at the following meeting

Search for the VP/Dean Up-date provided by Jon Ramsey, committee is working

applications will be available until January 10, 2014. Mr. Martin Baker has been retained to assist with the search; the next committee meeting will be during the week of January 13 to review applications. It is the committee's goal to have on campus interviews in February and March with the goal of having Dean/VP on campus July 1.

Future meetings will be scheduled in February and April

Meeting adjourned 9:45 am.