

DASNR Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2006

Members Present: Lynn Brandenberger, Jim Criswell, Udaya Desilva, Steve Hallgren, Mike Kizer, Ramamurthy Mahalingam, William McGlynn, Sissy Osteen, Derrell Peel, Sharon von Brombsen

Members Absent: Dwayne Cartmell, Shiping Deng, Sam Fuhlendorf, Gerald Horn, Dan Tilley

Ex-Officio Members Present: Bob Whitson, Vice President, Dean and Director, DASNR

Guests: Robert Westermann, Steven Stone

Call to Order: Chair Lynn Brandenberger called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. He called for any additions to the agenda. Udaya Desilva moved and Jim Criswell seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: Steve Hallgren moved and Desilva seconded that the minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting be approved as they appear on www.afc.okstate.edu. The motion passed.

Questions for Vice President/Dean Whitson:

As Dr. Whitson was delayed at an earlier meeting, Dr. Westermann began the session by responding to questions #3 regarding the disposition of the TIP, RIP and SIP funds and question #6 about indirect costs on grants.

Question 3: Could you please share with the faculty information on how the TIP funds were allocated (titles of projects, team leaders, amounts of awards, matching funds, etc.) and similar information on the SIP and RIP funding?

Dr. Westermann presented the following overview for TIP and RIP awards:

FOCUS TOTALS	Total OAES/ OCES	Match	Total w/ Match
21st Century Plant Enterprises	856978	616969	1473947
Natural Resources - Quality & Management	238000	74748	312748
21st Century Animal Enterprises	435813	151540	587353
Resilient and Healthy Families	103000	23413	126413
21st Century Biological Technologies	283833	145806	429639
4-H - Developing Future Leaders	60816	32816	93632
Economically Strong and Empowered Communities	83000	25000	108000
TOTAL	2061440	1070292	3131732

INITIATIVE TOTALS	Total OAES/ OCES	Match	Total w/ Match
Animal Host-Pathogen Interaction & Emerg/ Reemerg Disease	34510	17252	51762
Bio-Based Products	239300	372201	611501
Cattle and Forages	115500	28600	144100
Cattle Receiving & Feeding	239735	90332	330067
Commercial Horticulture	78910	30000	108910
Community Resource & Economic Development	58816	32816	91632
Consumer Horticulture & Urban Forestry			
Crop Management	144000	60000	204000
Ecosystem Management, Conservation & Restoration	79000	11034	90034
Environmental Quality & Waste Management	121000	53713	174713
Family Economic Wellbeing			
Family Resiliency	26000		26000
Farm & Agribusiness Management	29500	10000	39500
Food Processing	65000	32501	97501
Food Safety	27000	13685	40685
Function and Regulation of Genetic Processes	86000	41055	127055
Homeland Security - Agricultural Biosecurity	46000	23000	69000
Host-Pathogen/Parasite Interactions - Plant	41000	14000	55000
Human Nutrition & Health	50000	9728	59728
Integrated Pest Management	102076	45313	147389
Leadership & Community Volunteer Development			
Natural Resource Education			
Oklahoma Mesonet	18000		18000
Plant Stresses: Abiotic & Biotic	37519	4332	41851
Sensor-Based Technology	98392	38696	137088
Stored Products	76068	25301	101369
Structure & Function of Molecules	188114	105900	294014
Turf Production			
Wheat - Multiple Uses	32000	10833	42833
Youth Environmental Education - Water Quality	28000		28000
TOTAL	2061440	1070292	3131732

These awards were made out of 67 TIP & RIP proposals that were reviewed largely by Dr. Westermann. There were also 15 SIP proposals totaling \$1.75 million for items such as improvement of irrigation wells at Bixby and Goodwell, fencing at several research stations and pond construction for cattle watering in range areas. Only \$1 million in funds were available to support the SIP program. The SIP proposals were reviewed by Dr. Westermann, Dr. Whitson, Monty Karns, Brent Westermann and Steve Stone primarily.

Question 6: Follow up on IDCs.

- a) Are IDCs the same for research, teaching or extension?
- b) What is the amount that requires IDCs, and is this for a quarter, half year or yearly amount from the same source/company.

Research, teaching and extension IDC's are charged at different rates: research at 46.4%, teaching at 54.8%, and extension at 37.0%. The rates are based on estimated utilization of facility space, staff, and utilities. OSU's IDC rates are established in cooperation with the Office of Naval Research. DASNR recovers 45% of the IDCs from the VP for Research's office and returns 75% of that amount to the PI's department.

No IDCs are charged on grants under \$5000. Voluntary waivers of IDCs are possible for larger grants. However, the VP for Research will not necessarily waive the university's share in every instance. If that occurs, the department of the waiving PI will have to pay the VP for Research's share out of the granted funds, reducing the amount available for the project.

Upon Dr. Whitson's arrival from another meeting he responded to the remaining questions.

Question 1: We would like Dr. Whitson to express and demonstrate support for teaching (including advising) activities within DASNR. There should be no question that someone who is 100% teaching (or 100% extension, for that matter) should be eligible for promotion and tenure based on their scholarship within that responsibility apart from research grants, IDC's, and a long list of refereed journal articles (although refereed articles related to teaching and extension certainly are possible and can be encouraged, turning out such articles should not be seen as the primary responsibility of someone who is 100% teaching or 100% extension). We also want to express a strong conviction that a DASNR-wide RPT committee is not something most of us favor.

Student enrollment numbers and student successes are the most common questions we get from citizens around the state. The new Student Success center is a major DASNR commitment to student success. The importance of teaching with respect to reappointment, promotion and tenure depends on the culture and climate within the faculty member's department. While the publication expectations for someone with a 100% teaching appointment are not the same as for a faculty member with a significant research appointment, some demonstration of scholarship is still expected, though not necessarily journal articles. No decision has been made at this point with regard to a college-level RPT committee within DASNR. The college-level committee is not envisioned as another "hoop" to jump through on the promotion and tenure path, but as an additional point of protection and oversight for the faculty member. It is acknowledged that such a committee might affect the timeline of RPT procedures, requiring additional time for the committee to review RPT materials.

Question 2: While we know there have been several different campus master plans over the years, and relatively few features of any one plan have actually been developed, are any provisions being considered for DASNR facilities that will be eliminated by the development of the new master plan? For example, all versions of the new plan thus far show a new dormitory on the current site of the BAE Research Laboratory at the corner of Cleveland & Hall of Fame. Will there be some sort of trade-off from Whitehurst that builds a replacement research laboratory if the current one is torn down?

The DASNR administrative team met with unit heads to go over the impact of the campus master plan to division programs. Some of the positive impacts include the closing in of the west end of Agriculture Hall, with the possibility of covering the enclosed center of the building to create an atrium, plus the renovation and updating of laboratories and classrooms. Some of the negatives include the elimination of the BAE research laboratory and the teaching greenhouses. Assurances have been given that these facilities will reappear elsewhere. Because these facilities are used for teaching, their new location needs to be close enough to the main campus to permit easy access for students between class periods.

The 5-year portion of the plan will be implemented soon. Funds from bond programs are already in place to begin construction. Demolition of the old Dairy Building and construction of the new science teaching building in its place will be one of the early projects. Negotiations are already underway for space in the new building. Initially there was discussion of operating it like a hotel with space allocations constantly changing, depending on changing program needs due to variations in enrollment and fluctuations in grant support within departments. However, we in DASNR believe that continuity is required in space allocations. Currently physics and chemistry have claimed about 2/3 of the space in the new building with biological sciences claiming most of the remainder.

Question 4: What faculty input has gone into the 2nd proposal sent to the Noble Foundation (Ardmore) regarding cooperative graduate study programs with OSU, as mentioned by Dr. Westermann in his interview seminar?

Noble Foundation department heads feel that partnering with OSU for graduate programs would be a positive arrangement. Under this arrangement the Foundation would provide financial support for students, facilities to house student research, and Foundation staff would serve on graduate committees. A graduate assistanceship program with the Foundation is a definite possibility. Ag. Economics already has one assistanceship in place with them at this time. The administration feels that for this arrangement to truly work OSU must have a continuing presence at the Noble Foundation's Ardmore facility, and is exploring ways to accomplish this. The latest Higher Education bond program has earmarked \$50 million for OSU. About \$35 million is set aside for the teaching hospital in Tulsa, and some is planned for a sensor building in the OSU research park. Additional funds from for a research facility in Ardmore should be available from this bond allocation.

Question 5: What is the legal responsibility of a faculty for damages and personal injury occurring in a laboratory, classroom, and other locations related to the workplace?

Unless there is clearly a case of gross negligence, there is no personal liability to a faculty member acting within the scope of their university responsibilities. There are certain risks inherent in nearly every activity, but if common sense is used the faculty member is protected from liability.

Extra FYI Discussion by VP/Dean Whitson

5-Year Academic Ledger Reports: At the December meeting the subject of the newly-released academic ledger reports was brought up and briefly discussed by Dr. Whitson. Copies of the full report for all DASNR departments were distributed to the council members.

Dr, Whitson said that all department heads had copies and should be sharing the information in the reports with their faculty, as well.

Expert Testimony Consulting: The DASNR administration has forwarded a policy covering faculty consulting in lawsuits to the university administration for approval. The proposed policy requires any faculty member who wants to engage in consulting activity to apply to the Vice President's office for permission. If the faculty member wants to be an advocate for one side or another in litigation, he/she must take leave and testify as an individual, not as a representative of OSU. The policy will also apply if the faculty member is asked by the client to develop information and material which may eventually be part of a lawsuit. The policy sent forward for approval is essentially the same as draft that was presented to the council at the September, 2005 council meeting.

University Faculty Council Report

No report.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be May 3, 2006 from 10 AM-Noon. Location TBA.

Adjournment

Derrell Peel moved and Sissy Osteen seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Kizer, DASNRFC Secretary