

## DASNR Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

### March 25, 2005

**Members Present:** Shiping Deng, Udaya Desilva, Damona Doye, Sam Fuhlendorf, Steve Hallgren, Brian Kahn, Mike Kizer, Notie Lansford, Mali Mahalingam, Phil Mulder, Sissy Osteen, and Sharon von Broembsen

**Members Absent:** Lynn Brandenberger, Dwayne Cartmell, and David Lalman

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Ed Miller, Interim Dean & Director CASNR/DASNR, and Associate Dean, Academic Programs

**1. Call to Order:** 10:35 a.m. call to order by Chair Phil Mulder; no agenda items were added.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of December 10, 2004 meeting were approved as they appear on [www.afc.okstate.edu](http://www.afc.okstate.edu).

#### **3. Announcements and Updates**

**a. New Member:** Mike Kizer was introduced as the new representative from Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. He will serve out the unexpired term of Glenn Brown, who resigned from the Council.

**b. Library Advisory Committee:** Udaya Desilva reported that the library has a new PDF document delivery service available, and they have some new databases. The PDF service is for any document the library has that can be scanned, not just those already in electronic format. They are considering hiring a dedicated librarian for the ASNR area.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

**a. DASNR Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) Committee:** RPT Committee Chair Notie Lansford reported that the committee will meet in early April to review RPT policies in the Division, especially with regard to the new campus-wide policy statement now under development. David Engle has been added to the RPT Committee.

**b. DASNR Curriculum and Academic Standards (CAS) Committee:** CAS Committee liaison Brian Kahn reported the committee met on January 19, 2005 and voted on various course action requests.

**c. Report from OSU Faculty Council:** Phil Mulder noted he had been unable to attend the last two OSU Faculty Council meetings, but Tom Phillips (also from ENTO/PLP) had kept him updated. Two issues highlighted in OSU Faculty Council Summary Update Number 13 (March 23, 2005) are the financing of Boone Pickens Stadium and the process by which Dr. Whitson was hired as the new Dean and Director of DASNR. Dr. Mulder shared parts of an e-mail sent to OSU Faculty Council by Dr. Earl Mitchell concerning the hiring of Dr. Whitson.

## **5. Report on Status of Information Technology in DASNR and Across Campus**

Dwayne Hunter, Manager of Computer Services for DASNR, was introduced. He provided information and answered questions. He is part of DASNR and is not employed by the IT Division (ITD). ITD has six directors under the Chief Information Officer; four positions are filled, and the other two will be announced soon with applications closing in April.

**a. Migration Update:** There are two separate issues here – the change from Novell to Active Directory, and the change from Lotus Notes to Exchange. There is no time frame for completion of either migration. Within DASNR, only Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and Family and Consumer Sciences are known to be fully migrated. Animal Science is partially migrated. The estimate is that less than 15% of the university has migrated. No unrequested migrations will occur; departments must ask to be migrated. Off-campus DASNR facilities such as county Extension offices are now being migrated to Exchange. There shouldn't be compatibility issues between Notes and Exchange, but some have occurred relative to lack of certain Notes addresses in the Global Address List in Exchange. Listserv is a separate issue. A request was made that ITD send reminders to migrated clients to renew their subscriptions for forwarding mail from the old Notes addresses, and instructions in how to do this.

**b. "Spam" and Identity Theft:** A university committee has been formed to deal with these issues. An RFP for a spam-control system is out and the system is expected to be in place by July 1. The new filters will be at the gateway level (what we now have is at the desktop level). Dwayne recommended just deleting spam messages; if one asks to be taken off a list, this confirms that the e-mail address works and is being monitored. DASNR has taken steps to minimize opportunities for identity theft. One should look for "https" as an indication of a more secure server.

**c. Network Storage and Backups:** ITD has increased mailbox sizes. Dwayne recommended using the Enterprise Backup System, offered through ITD.

**d. Website Design Changes:** The new Director of Marketing talked to Ag. Communications. There was a concern with notification when website addresses change; this affects things like fact sheets and the interface with OSU EXTRA. OSU EXTRA will be redesigned but the URL will stay the same. An update of the DASNR website/home page may be put on hold until Dr. Whitson is in office.

**e. Facilities Upgrades:** The College's Student Technology Fee Committee approved upgrading CASNR labs, and this will occur in Summer 2005. A request is in to the university to aid us in this process. The university-wide Technology Fee Committee will be reinstated and may meet for the first time next week. Wireless Internet access in Ag. Hall is being investigated.

## **6. Old Business**

**a. P-Card Usage Letter to Dr. Bosserman:** Dr. Bosserman is aware of the issue, but no further actions have been reported. Dr. Miller will raise the issue again at the next Deans' Council meeting.

**b. Status of New Hires in Light of the Dean Situation:** Dr. Miller reported schedules have not been changed by the hiring of Dr. Whitson. Department head searches are moving ahead in Entomology and Plant Pathology and in Forestry. DASNR administrators will be meeting with Biochemistry and Molecular Biology faculty concerning their search for a new head. Faculty hires are proceeding. DASNR has been more conservative on staff hires compared to faculty hires as budgets remain tight.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Questions for Interim Dean Miller**

**Question #1** (note the order of questions was altered from that shown on the agenda)  
Please update the status of the federal and state budgets, and the impact on a salary program, restoration of OAES positions, etc.

**Response:** President Bush's budget showed a shift in agriculture from base/formula funds (Hatch, McEntire-Stennis) to competitive grants over a two-year period. The total amount of funding did not change, but monies were switched over to competitive grants. There is a concern that if this were to happen, then over the long-term, agriculture funding could decrease, since it would be politically easier to reduce funding for competitive grants than for base/formula programs. DASNR administrators have been to Washington to lobby for the maintenance of base/formula funds. Our Congresspeople will probably support us. NASULGC is discussing strategies for the future, since base/formula funding is expected to erode. At the state level, Dr. Miller distributed a hand-out on the "Second Century Initiative" to restore some lost OAES and OCES positions. This initiative will not be in a bill and must receive broad-based legislative support through the appropriations process. There is an effort to connect local OCES staff with their legislators, and faculty may be asked to help with these connections as well. Please keep Jan Montgomery and Jamie Longacre advised as contacts are made. The initiative areas cut across departments, and there is no intent to ask for specific positions to be restored department by department. About 29 faculty positions are involved. The initiative would restore about \$5.4 million out of the current \$12 million shortfall. This has to be recurring money. The incoming Dean was introduced to the Legislature on March 8, and he will return on April 27 to promote this initiative (along with other OSU personnel). There may be a Division-wide meeting (including field staff) to discuss this initiative. Dr. Miller stated that there were too many unknowns for him to discuss a possible salary program at this time.

### **Question #2**

Please update us on policies related to IDC's and consolidated accounts.

**Response:** A new hand-out is available, and it is about to be distributed to departments. Dr. Miller recommended that if there were problems with grants and contracts administration (for example, changing the budget for a line item), one should write a memo (typically to Jan Madole) and initiate a conversation.

### **Question #3**

What discussions have occurred relative to the dean search protocol?

**Response (really a general discussion with Dr. Miller participating):** Many on the DASNR Faculty Council have questioned the process by which Dr. Whitson was hired. University-wide Faculty Council is considering whether to bring the U.S. Department of Labor into the picture. After Dr. Whitson's interview, DASNR Faculty Council requested (via a memo to Dr. Strathe) more time to provide input and an opportunity to hear from all the candidates before an opinion was expressed. The memo is included as **Appendix A** to these minutes. The hiring of Dr. Whitson was announced three days after the memo was sent. Thus, the memo was ignored, and Council ended up having no input. There is tremendous frustration and a growing sense of "no confidence" in the higher OSU administration within the Division and beyond. Concern was expressed that overt negativity from the Division might adversely impact the success of the Second Century Initiative. Dr. Miller informed Council that President Schmidly is not the line officer for either the OAES or the OCES; they are separate budget agencies. Given this, Dr. Miller expressed his opinion that Dr. Whitson would be more empowered with the Regents and the Legislature if he carried the title of Vice President, regardless of the process by which that title was bestowed. There might have been more acceptance if the rationale for elevating the Dean to a Vice President had been presented before the search process was initiated, and if the position announcement had included the title. Apparently Dr. Schmidly offered to speak to the Division concerning the dean search process after the fact, but the feeling was that this would have been counterproductive (Council agreed). Morale might improve if DASNR personnel could be persuaded to at least consider that having Dr. Whitson carry the title of Vice President might be a good thing for the Division, but doing so at this stage of the process will be difficult. Dr. Mulder asked if Council wanted to express a further, formal opinion on the dean search process, and indicated he would poll the committee by e-mail since several members needed to leave. Council expressed appreciation to Dr. Miller for listening to our concerns and for providing us with his perspectives.

**b. Announcements by Interim Dean Miller:** Dr. Miller indicated some important academic issues were coming forward. The DASNR CAS (Curriculum and Academic Standards) Committee will discuss these issues first, and then Council may be asked to consider them. One issue is General Education.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian A. Kahn, Secretary, DASNR Faculty Council

## **Appendix A to DASNR Faculty Council Meeting Minutes, March 25, 2005**

**From:** Cartmell, Dwayne

**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2005 5:23 PM

**To:** Strathe, Marlene; Alexander, Joseph W; Weaver, Denise

**Cc:** svonbro@okstate.edu; Brandenberger, Lynn; Brown, Glenn; Cartmell, Dwayne; Deng, Shiping; Desilva, Udaya; Doye, Damona; Fuhlendorf, Sam; hallgrn@okstate.edu; Kahn, Brian; Lalman, David; Lansford, Notie; Mahalingam, Mali; Mulder, Phil; Osteen, Sissy R

**Subject:** Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Faculty Council Input

Dr. Strathe:

Members of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Faculty Council wish to express their concern with the interview process for the next Dean and Director of the Division. We were given eight days notice of a date for AFC to meet with the first candidate, Dr. Whitson. This was a contributing factor to some Council members being unable to adjust their schedules to accommodate the meeting. Once the meeting took place, very little time remained for group discussion and faculty feedback since the deadline for input to the Provost's office was March 1.

An e-mail poll of all AFC members was issued on the afternoon of Feb. 25, with a request for input by noon on Monday, Feb. 28, to meet the deadline for input. This poll reached most councilors. The consensus was that AFC will take no stance as to the acceptability of Dr. Whitson until such time as we are able to compare this candidate to the others who will be interviewed for the position. We do not feel it is in the best interest of the Division to draw conclusions about one candidate without having interviewed and interacted with the remaining candidates.

We respectfully request that the deadline for input be extended until the interview process has been completed. We also request that dates for subsequent interviews be made available to us as soon as practical to maximize faculty involvement in the process.