

DASNR Faculty Council (AFC) Minutes
102 Ag Hall
April 1, 1999

Dillwith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the following faculty present: Bender, Dillwith, S. Dolezal, Epplin, M. Essenberg, Hayes, Hermann, Horn, Krenzer (ex officio non-voting member), Maness, Murray, Needham, Oehrtman, Solie, and Turton. Absent: Curl (ex officio non-voting member) and Hattey

The agenda was presented by Dillwith and approved without exception. Minutes of the March 4, 1999 meeting were distributed. Maness presented and Horn seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Epplin reminded members they are expected to distribute copies of the minutes to their constituents. It was suggested that a draft copy of minutes be distributed to members via e-mail. Members should check the draft for errors and inform the secretary of necessary changes. A revised copy of the minutes will then be sent to members via e-mail for distribution to all DASNR faculty.

Old Business

Status of AFC minutes archive

Dillwith reported that the DASNR administration did not have or could not find minutes from prior AFC meetings. It was suggested that Epplin attempt to locate minutes and establish a process to archive minutes.

Update on DASNR RPT Committee

By policy “. . . the RPT Committee will consist of five members of the tenured faculty . . .”, two AFC members who serve as chair and chair-elect and three members appointed from the general faculty.

Current membership of the RPT Committee is as follows with term expiration in parentheses: Maness, Chair (Fall 1999), Turton, Chair-elect (Fall 2000), Brusewitz (Fall 1999), Hunger (Fall 2000), Muriana (Fall 2001).

Maness requested a discussion of the purpose of the RPT Committee. By policy the function of the committee is to “. . . review and evaluate departmental RPT policies and procedures documents for consistency . . .” with OSU policy and for “. . . clarity . . . and fairness . . .”.

A number of issues regarding RPT were discussed. Essenberg expressed concern as to whether current departmental guidelines accommodate the needs of nontenured faculty that have program responsibilities to two bosses. She cited the case of the Food and Agricultural Products Research and Technology Center. Hayes noted the case of faculty with joint responsibilities in other areas including 4-H, Journalism, and the Wes Watkins Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Lane. Oehrtman noted that similar situations could be forthcoming as programs on the Tulsa campus are developed. Maness asked what the AFC and AFC/RPT Committee can do to facilitate the process and to alleviate concerns of faculty. Dillwith suggested that the AFC/RPT Committee, in keeping with policy, review and evaluate existing departmental procedures and policies to determine if they are sufficient to accommodate work assignments.

Essenberg presented and Oehrtman seconded a motion that the **AFC RPT Committee (1) review the RPT policies and procedures of each department in the Division to determine if the existing documents facilitate evaluation and guidance for nontenured tenure track faculty who have programmatic responsibilities to units other than their academic department; and (2) issue a request to current chairs of departmental committees in departments that have faculty with program responsibilities in other units to prepare a written statement as to the adequacy of the departmental guidelines for evaluating these cases.**

Motion carried.

New Business

Review of role and purpose of AFC

By policy the mission of the AFC “. . . is to participate in an advisory and referral capacity to the Dean . . . regarding . . . planning, curriculum and program issues . . .”. However, in recent years the AFC has not engaged in many discussions of planning, curriculum, and program issues with the Dean. Similarly, while there are a number of issues that impact faculty, issues are seldom brought to the AFC from the administration.

Solie said that the evidence suggests that the AFC has not established a relationship with Dean Curl that is consistent with the mission. Krenzer noted that AFC members and Dean Curl might not have been aware of the mission. He also suggested that inconsistency regarding meeting times, the relatively infrequent meetings over the last several years, inconsistent methods for distribution of minutes, and two-year terms have hampered continuity. Krenzer explained that in contrast to AFC, meeting times of the OSUFC are codified so that everyone knows before they are elected to a three-year term when meetings are scheduled. Horn noted that DASNR faculty have been instrumental in providing input and direction regarding many important university policies via the OSUFC. AFC as a representative body of the DASNR faculty could serve as a useful representative forum and sounding board for the DASNR administration.

Many members contributed to the discussion. Several members noted that the administration has not brought important policy issues to the AFC. Some members indicated that they consider some of the anonymous questions presented to the Dean to be trivial. These questions may have hampered the “respectability” of the AFC. It was suggested that faculty be encouraged to obtain answers to questions from their department head. Also, Dean Curl is available to answer questions at his informal open door sessions.

After a considerable amount of discussion, Dillwith agreed to meet with Dean Curl to review the by-laws of the AFC and to determine how to bring the operation of AFC more in line with the by-laws. The planned focus of the next AFC meeting will be a discussion with Dean Curl on the operation of the AFC.

Maness presented and Bender seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectively submitted,
Francis Epplin, Secretary