

AGRICULTURAL FACULTY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

MINUTES

PRESENT: TOM ROYER, BOB KROPP, JODY CAMPICHE, CHANJIN CHUNG, SHANE ROBINSON, DAN STEIN, JUNPENG DENG, DAMON SMITH, BRUCE DUNN, JUSTIN MOSS, EILEEN ST. PIERRE, KEFYALEW DESTA, CHAD GODSEY, ROBERT WHITSON

ABSENT: DAVE ENGLE, DAN STORM, SCOTT FRAZIER, JUSTIN TALLEY, ART KLATT, STEVE DAMRON

Meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Royer at 9:30 am. Minutes from the previous meeting were provided. Bob Kropp moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Chad Godsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Agricultural Faculty Council Liaison to the OSU Faculty Council, Dr. Art Klatt, was absent; there no report of the Faculty Council was presented.

Chair Royer then called on Dr. Whitson to discuss questions that were presented to the Dean by faculty.

Dr. Whitson welcomed the new members of the Agricultural Faculty Council and stated that it was good to see new faces present at the meeting.

Question 1. What is the status of the departmental laboratory space requests that were submitted to Dr. Westerman in May, 2010?

Whitson answer: Appreciate input and questions; however, not too many opportunities to reallocate resources and laboratory space. With opening of the Bellmon Research Building, faculty members will be moving and laboratory space in the Noble Building will become available. Lots of competing needs, but the allocation process has worked well and as laboratory space in Noble, Ag Hall or other areas become available, allocations will be made in a fair process.

Question 2. What is the construction status of the new DASNR Research facility in Ardmore? Are they on budget or over budget? What is the plan for faculty staffing and funding general operational needs, such as heating, cooling, secretaries, etc. Are they going to move positions once located in departments in Stillwater to Ardmore?

Whitson answer: Good progress has been made with the construction and is scheduled to be completed in late spring, 2011. The construction is on budget. Contingency funding is 5% of budget which provides some flexibility. Staffing and funding is established on level budgets, however, there has been a decrease in budgeting. May hire some faculty and staff on soft money. Staffing will be bare bones and some space will be shelled in to be completed at a later date. Of the 30,000 sq.ft capacity of the building, 10-12,000 sq. ft. will not be opened. Plans are to have interaction with Noble Foundation and may involve adjunct faculty. Graduate student housing is proposed. Noble Foundation will be key leader; however, will function as a team effort. Tenure track faculty will be expected to cooperate with OSU faculty and will be tenured within the OSU system. Ribbon cutting is scheduled for June/July of 2011.

Question 3. Is the Dean's office aware that the Geology Department has moved the BP dune buggy in front of the wall plaque honoring DASNR donors to the Noble Research Center Building? Concerned about the people traffic in the Atrium of the building.

Whitson answer: Not aware of the dune buggy; however, the Geology Department is to move the dune buggy from that location.

Question 4. With the recent significant reduction in flexible funds and with the possibility of further reductions in budgets, how can we upgrade and maintain our research stations to serve as examples of outstanding stewardship to our Oklahoma producers?

Whitson answer: Field service unit has taken same reductions. Combining positions, hold other positions open, trying to stretch dollars. Must postpone some maintenance. Must use grant funding to help with maintenance and buying equipment. Must use Federal surplus when possible. Sitington Endowment has provided some matching funds. Must take pride in facilities, making sure that maintenance and upkeep continue even when budgets are being decreased.

Question 5. How have the programs, Oklahoma Gardening and SunUp, been impacted by the current budget difficulties and how can faculty get on these programs?

Whitson answer: We lost Clinton Griffith, but we must continue SunUp. Outstanding format. If we stop SunUp, may not get it back. If you have ideas for programs, visit with Garvin Quinn. SunUp is the window to Oklahoma agriculture. Provides valuable information to producers and extension.

Question 6. Does OCES have funding priorities that are being pursued through OSU Branding Success campaign? What are the priorities and steps being taken to raise funds through this campaign and other strategies?

Whitson answer: OCES is 10% or \$100 million of the campaign. Professorships and scholarships dealing with 4-H. Kathy McNally is open to any ideas. \$100 million of matching funds from T. Boone Pickens ends October, 2010. Darin Russell working in the Foundation to aid agriculture.

Question 7. What is the status of the Old Swine Center?

Whitson answer: Under the control of Athletics. Proposed site for the new Equestrian Center when funds become available.

Dean Whitson was thanked for his answers and input to the Ag Faculty Council.

Chair Royer proceeded with election of the 2010 – 2011 officers. Newly elected officers are as follows:

Chair – Bob Kropp

Vice Chair – Shane Robinson

Secretary – Jody Campiche

Chair, Curriculum and Academic Standards – Steve Damron

Chair AFC – RPT – Dave Engle

AFE – RPT Committee member – Chanjin Chung

The AFC Executive Committee will be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Curriculum and Academic Standards Chair and AFC-RPT Chair.

Chair Royer turned over the meeting to Bob Kropp, the new chair of the AFC.

Chair Kropp called on Shane Robinson for a report concerning Distance Education. Shane Robinson reported that E-campus under the direction of the Provost Strathe had money coming in. However, division of funds among university, division of Agriculture, department and faculty remained cloudy. Concerns about overload pay vs. inload pay are part of the greater discussion. E-campus did not go where it was thought it would go. Discussions are continuing.

With no further business, a discussion related to the new meeting was initiated. It was felt that early November would work for most present. Chair Kropp would meet with Dr. Whitson and Diana Ward to coordinate an acceptable date in early November.

Meeting was adjourned.