

DASNR Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2006

Members Present: John Caddel, Renee Daugherty, Gerald Horn, Haobo Jiang, Mike Kizer, Penny Pennington, Chris Richards, Dan Tilley, Yanqi Wu

Members Absent: Lou Anella, Jim Criswell, Ramamurthy Mahalingham, William McGlynn, Derrell Peel

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

Call to Order: Chair Dan Tilley called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in Room 410 Ag. Hall.

Questions for the Dean /VP:

1. *Does DASNR have plans for the use of the old swine facility on 6th Street? If not, is DASNR soliciting suggestions for its use?*
The old swine facility on 6th Street will be assigned to the Athletic Department to house the Equestrian Team. The Regents have looked at the issue and the assignment has been approved. The new use will not begin immediately, and some storage use by DASNR departments will continue for the immediate future. The old barn will be retained, but the wing additions will probably be modified. The athletic director has expressed openness to joint use of the facility for other equine-related needs if they arise in the future.
2. *Will the space justification request that was recently sent out be conducted yearly, or is to be conducted on another set pattern of time?*
Space utilization will be looked at periodically, but not on any set schedule. If significant changes in faculty positions occur, or if other factors affecting the need for laboratory space or other facilities develop, we will revisit the issue at that time. Space allocation will be addressed on an as-needed basis rather than on a fixed timetable.
3. *Regarding the space justification request- Why did the VP & Dean not request grants received and grants proposed information from the DASNR Grants & Contracts office?*
The information was not requested because it is simply too difficult to tell how grants affect laboratory and other facility usage. Many times there will be multiple uses of a single area by personnel who are funded from different sources.
4. *On the University website there are report cards prepared for each college and department. Do you believe the report cards accurately depict the status of DASNR? Are there issues you would like to address on report cards?*
No, I do not believe the report cards accurately reflect DASNR status. I believe the report cards are important, and we will be establishing benchmarks for activities in teaching, research and extension in the Division. When the Associates and I have our management sessions with unit heads at the beginning of the year, these benchmarks will help us assess the departmental needs and performance. They will not be unique to the unit head, but will reflect the status of the whole department. Benchmark data will include many things, such as

peer-reviewed publications, grant dollars, extension publications, etc. for research and extension activities. We need better information from our units about our graduates with regards to how many get jobs and what salaries they start at to get a more complete picture of our teaching activities. Report cards can help us do a better job of directing resources; capitalizing on strengths and correcting weaknesses. They will be as much a strategic planning tool as an evaluation tool, to help us make better use of our resources. Making better use of our resources is one reason for looking at faculty requests 4 times per year. When unit heads make requests to refill and restore positions, or to add growth positions they will be asked to justify them and prioritize the positions with respect to the unit goals. Having all the requests from all departments at one time will allow us to consider those requests with respect to how they fit within the overall framework of DASNR's goals and priorities. Evaluating all faculty position requests at one time will allow us to use our limited personnel dollars to meet the most pressing needs of the Division, which isn't really possible when the requests trickle in from the units one or two at a time.

5. *Why has the Assistant Director of the Experiment Station search been an internal search only?*

Historically, this position has been filled by internal candidates. With Dr. Watson having come from another state, and being relatively new, I felt it was important to have the assistant position filled by an internal candidate who is familiar with OAES, if at all possible. If we cannot identify a suitable internal candidate, then we will broaden the search. This search should close soon.

6. *Can you give us an update on the status of other vacant administrative positions?*

Three finalists for the Animal Science position were selected for on-campus interviews. All three were external candidates. One candidate subsequently withdrew from consideration because he accepted a position at another institution. The schedule of interviews and seminar presentations for the remaining candidates should be forthcoming soon. Three finalists were selected for the Agricultural Economics position. One was an external candidate, and two were internal. The external candidate withdrew after being told it was not possible to guarantee a tenured, full professor position (in another college) for his spouse before the interview process began. The Natural Resources Ecology & Management search is being chaired by Dr. Edelson, and a candidate pool is being built for evaluation by the search & screen committee. The Biochemistry & Molecular Biology search is chaired by Dr. Wagner and is continuing, after the first round search did not result in a successful hire. Dr. Mitchell continues as interim head, but has announced his retirement. The Plant & Soil Sciences search & screen committee has just been established and should begin reviewing the position description soon. Dr. Maronek is its chair. The search for the Agricultural Communications Director is on-going and should close around December 1. The Assistant Extension Director for 4-H and Family & Consumer Sciences was formerly a single position, and has been split into two positions. Those searches are on-going. Steve Stone is retiring as Associate Vice-President for Fiscal Affairs, effective the end of 2006. Dr. Bob Westermann will fill the position in the interim. That search will begin soon.

New Business:

By-Laws: The by-laws are currently inaccurate, and need to be updated to reflect (1) changes in the Dean and Director's title to Vice-President, Dean and Director; (2) the elimination of the Forestry Department; (3) the creation of the Natural Resources Ecology & Management Department; and (4) the name change of Agricultural Education, Communications & 4-H Youth Development to Agricultural Education, Communications & Leadership. The by-laws currently require that any amendments be passed by a 2/3 majority of those casting votes by mail. It was suggested that this requirement be changed to allow voting by email. It was moved by Renee Daugherty that the by-laws be amended to reflect (1) the change in title for the Vice-President, Dean and Director, (2) the changes in the departments within DASNR, (3) the change in name of the Agricultural Education, Communications & Leadership Department, and to allow voting on amendments to the by-laws by email. Gerald Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The secretary will make the necessary changes and will distribute a draft of the amended by-laws to the Council membership before arrangements for a Division-wide mail vote are made.

Announcements:

Before leaving to attend the Farm Bureau Convention in Tulsa, Dr. Whitson announced that he was the chair of the search & screen committee for the President of OSU-Okmulgee. He also expressed hope that recent changes in federal and state political leadership would not adversely affect our funding situation. He mentioned that a number of holiday activities were being planned: a Christmas tree in Ag. Hall, an angel tree for students, and receptions for graduate students, and a faculty-staff reception.

Tilley announced that future meeting dates are scheduled for January 19 and April 6 at 3:30 PM.

Adjournment:

John Caddel moved and Chris Richards seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael A. Kizer, Secretary
DASNR Faculty Council