

**Minutes
Ag Faculty Council
December 1, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by President, Doug Hamilton. Those present included Doug Hamilton, Scott Carter, Shane Robinson, Tom Royer, Eileen St Pierre (for Renee Daugherty), Chad Godsey, Nurhan Dunford, Joe Schatzer, Steven Marek, Paul Hsu, Michael Massiah, Fred Guthery, Hailin Zhang, and Bob Whitson.

Dr. Whitson was asked to spend time reviewing the questions presented by faculty in the College. Questions and comments are below.

1. *I understand you are on the short list for a position at Texas A&M similar to the position you hold here. First, what is the reason that you think that position is better than the one you now hold? If you receive an offer, do you foresee accepting such offer; if you do not receive an offer, are you going to continue to seek other opportunities?*

Dr. Whitson was a finalist for a position at TAMU. TAMU has hired an internal candidate for the position. Dr. Whitson stated that he was not seeking, but several had requested that he apply for the position and he did so for personal and professional reasons. He stated that the position was not a "better" position, rather another opportunity. He made a point, that no matter what position you are in, positions need to fit the people that apply for them.

Dr. Whitson ended comments on this question by stating that he plans on serving out to retirement in the OSU system, but sometimes opportunities do come up.

2. *Will there be a TIP program (or similar) this year?*

Currently, upper administration has yet to commit one way or another on the TIP program for the year because they are uncertain of what will come in January. This year's raise program/merit increases did use most of the money that was, in the past, used to fund the TIP program. The university is in a budget cycle, but has managed to take budget cuts by not filling positions (retirements or leaves) and not having to result to layoffs. If a TIP program is offered, it will more than likely be on a smaller scale, but we will have to wait until the legislative session starts outlining money for higher education.

3. *Rumor has it that a hiring freeze may be upon us. Is this going to be university wide or college wide?*

No official position has been taken by upper administration in the university or the college regarding a hiring freeze. There is talk of legislative pressure to put dollars into higher education to put a freeze on tuition for the coming year. Currently, 38% of OSU money is hard state dollars, the remaining is funded through tuition and grant dollars. The College has requested, from departments, a list of positions they would like filled in the coming year.

4. *Will Animal Health 1433 funds continue to be available?*

We will not know for sure until the FY09 budget is finalized, but we are thinking that these funds will be available. There is a continuing resolution with USDA to fund at the same level year to year, but this does not include earmark funds. OSU has continued to fund

earmarked programs internally out of reserves if USDA does not fund them at the same level year to year. The new Congress will (hopefully) pass the current FY09 budget. As a note, remember that in FY10, CSREES will become part of the National Institute for Food and Agriculture and the creation of this new institute may change how some of these dollars have been awarded.

Old Business

An RPT subcommittee was formed. Committee members include Tom Royer, Joe Schatzer and Doug Hamilton. This group will provide guidance such as conducting reviews of each departmental "Five Year Tenure Review Process" document. This subcommittee is not a grievance committee, rather a policy committee.

Graduate Faculty Groups were discussed. Questions were asked if faculty can choose which Group they best fit or if Group designation is department driven. Discussion indicated that faculty can split off to a different group from the rest of their department if that group best fits their research discipline.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meeting

The group was asked to hold Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27 open for the next meeting while Doug checks Dr. Whitson's availability.

Seeing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb VanOverbeke
Secretary