

# DASNR Faculty Council Meeting Minutes

## December 10, 2004

**Members Present:** Lynn Brandenberger, Glenn Brown, Dwayne Cartmell, Shipping Deng, Udaya Desilva, Damona Doye, Sam Fuhlendorf, Steve Hallgren, Brian Kahn, David Lalman, Notie Lansford, Phil Mulder, and Sissy Osteen

**Members Absent:** Marie Petracek and Sharon von Broembsen

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

**1. Call to Order:** 10:30 a.m. call to order by Chair Phil Mulder; no agenda items were added.

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

### **3. Announcements**

**a. Open Forum on Library Issues:** Udaya Desilva announced that an open forum on library issues will be held on January 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

### **4. Committee Reports**

**a. DASNR Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) Committee:** RPT Committee Chair Notie Lansford reported no new business, but he attended a meeting with the Provost relative to RPT issues. Ed Miller noted that Patty Speaker has the latest draft of the OSU Faculty Handbook (a.k.a. Appendix D).

**b. DASNR Curriculum and Academic Standards (CAS) Committee:** CAS Committee liaison Brian Kahn reported the committee had not met since August 9, 2004.

**c. Report from OSU Faculty Council:** Phil Mulder noted there did not seem to be an official liaison between the OSU Faculty Council and the DASNR Faculty Council.

### **5. Old Business**

**a. P-Card Usage Letter to Dr. Bosserman:** Phil Mulder attended the October 12, 2004 Faculty Council meeting and provided Council with the essence of the P-Card letter sent by AFC to Dr. Bosserman (see previous minutes). Dr. Bosserman received the letter and sent Dr. Mulder a reply that suggested a potentially favorable response. Dr. Mulder also sent Dr. Bosserman a follow-up e-mail on November 30. No further actions have been reported, but the issue remains under study.

### **6. New Business**

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

#### **Question #1**

Please discuss OSU policies dealing with student academic misconduct / cheating.

**Response:** Academic dishonesty is a hot topic nationally. We have a number of levels of academic dishonesty or misconduct that are recognized at OSU (refer to Section 6.12 of the *University Academic Regulations* and relevant Policy and Procedure letters). Some institutions use an “XF” grade for students who cheat. This grade can be removed after students take a course designed to educate them about appropriate academic behavior and the consequences of cheating. The XF is then replaced by a standard letter grade. Dr. Miller plans to place discussion of the XF grade on the next agenda of the OSU Instruction Council. Two DASNR Faculty Council members expressed a lack of support for the XF grade concept. Further discussion occurred. Glenn Brown mentioned that in one case when he was considering a charge of academic misconduct, he did not know the student involved had a prior record of questionable behavior. Apparently, a previous instructor had not reported an incident involving this same student to the Office of Student Conduct. Dr. Brown asked if we needed a more graduated policy with a central file (available only to instructors) where academic dishonesty/misconduct reports are kept. Such a file might facilitate a “two strikes and you’re out” policy. Brian Kahn suggested the need to examine individual cases on their merits, since faculty members vary greatly in their ideas of what constitutes academic dishonesty/misconduct and syllabi sometimes are ambiguous. Dr. Miller stated that he has central files holding letters reporting academic dishonesty, even those where the penalty imposed was relatively mild. Such letters may stipulate that if another case arises with that student, stiffer penalties may be forthcoming. However, Dr. Miller was concerned that if we collected complaints centrally on a university-wide basis, some instructors would be even less likely to file formal academic dishonesty/misconduct documents. The Council also affirmed the need for student involvement in any policy changes, and Dr. Miller said the SGA would review any changes.

### **Question #2**

What is the status of the DASNR Dean search?

**Response:** The search committee has met and reviewed applicants. Assignments have been made for committee members to contact listed referees. When that information has been considered, the pool will be reduced and non-listed referees will be contacted. Then the pool will be further reduced, and candidates may be brought in to a central location such as an airport for interviews. After that, we should have the final group that will be brought to campus. The target for on-campus interviews is February or March of 2005. No names are available yet, but the applicant pool is likely to overlap slightly with the previous pool, since President Schmidly invited re-applications.

### **Question #3**

What is the status of the reorganization effort, and what if any effect is this having on refilling department head positions?

**Response:** Dr. Miller has no plans to move forward with a reorganization, but the reasons for considering a reorganization have not disappeared. The new Dean may or may not want to consider changes. The department head searches in Forestry and in Entomology and Plant Pathology will lag behind the Dean’s search. This way, the new

Dean will have input and can act at his/her pleasure. Recommendations for search and screen committee members have been submitted by these two departments. Dr. Miller understood that former Dean Curl intended for Earl Mitchell to be the Interim Head of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for 18-24 months, corresponding with Dr. Mitchell's expected retirement date. Dr. Miller will converse with faculty in that department. Dr. Stiegler's appointment in Plant and Soil Sciences is expected to be extended.

#### **Question #4**

What is the latest on the transition of network software and e-mail?

**Response:** Dr. Miller did not have that information, and he suggested that Council ask Dwayne Hunter for an update. Apparently IT is still being lead by interim administrators. A problem was noted with bursar statements being sent by OSU e-mail and then not reaching the students.

**b. Announcements by Interim Dean Miller:** There is a proposal that would place the Educational Television Services group in charge of a new university-wide center of excellence in teaching and learning. Instruction Council is concerned that if this goes forward, oversight will be needed. There is sentiment that academics and pedagogy reside in academic units, and technology is just a tool. The DASNR administration will meet with university administrators on December 22, 2004 for preliminary budget discussions. Management discussions with DASNR department heads will occur in January, 2005; this is a normal, annual process.

**c. New Hires within the Division:** Interim Dean Miller announced that four research/extension positions had been released in the following areas:

Animal Science – beef

Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering – precision agriculture and agricultural mechanics

Horticulture and Landscape Architecture – edible non-vegetables (fruits and nuts)

Plant and Soil Sciences – cropping and oilseeds

A question was raised as to how these positions were prioritized. Dr. Miller responded that Dr. Coston was the appropriate contact. Several teaching positions were already released in the fall, and new teaching requests have been submitted to the Provost. Glenn Brown asked about staff positions. Dr. Miller responded that Sue Bonner was accepting staff requests, but he cautioned that future budget realities might affect actual hirings. University administration is prioritizing faculty positions over staff positions.

**d. Liaison Representative for Faculty Council:** See Item 4c. in these minutes. OSU Faculty Council invites college council chairs to attend and address their meetings.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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