

**Minutes**  
**Agricultural Faculty Council**  
**December 14, 2007**

**Members attending:**

Kevin Allen, Lou Anella, Scott Carter, Renee Daugherty, Doug Hamilton, Steven Marek, Michael Massiah, Derrell Peel, Kellie Raper, Chris Richards, Eric Stafne, Larry Talent, Penny Weeks, Hailing Zhang

**Questions for VP Whitson:**

- 1. What is the status of the pending Memorandum of Agreement between DASNR and the College of Human Environmental Sciences concerning the Cooperative Extension Family & Consumer Sciences unit?**

The previous MOU covered the period of the last 2 years. A revised MOU has been developed and is pending. The process has been on hold temporarily to allow time for the new FCS dean get on board before finalizing the new MOU.

- 2. The elevators in AG Hall east continue (as they have for many years) to be unreliable, annoying and downright dangerous. Despite the fact that they are constantly repaired, they never seem to be any better. Why can't we have decent elevators in the building?**

Dr. Whitson has investigated and was told that it would take \$250,000 each to replace the elevators. The Physical Plant has not been anxious to make that investment. There are 3 Physical Plant employees on campus who service and repair elevators. Dr. Whitson has also investigated the possibility of refurbishing the Ag hall elevators to improve the appearance of the elevators, however, this too is quite expensive and no decision has been made at this time.

- 3. Has CASNR ever considered furnishing the lobby of Noble Research Center with lounge chairs and / or study tables?**

**I have noticed how sterile the lobby of Nobel Research Center is and thought that the lobby furnished with comfortable chairs and a few "study tables" (similar to Student Union Atrium) would provide our agriculture students with an alternative place to study and/or relax between classes.**

The VP will check on possibilities relative to campus regulations for building furnishings. The VP is interested in providing commons areas for students and is investigating the possibility of a snack bar in the vicinity of Pistol Pizza in Kerr-Drummond as a replacement for the Dairy Bar.

- 4. There appears to be many changes, including personnel, occurring in the general DASNR service units such as Grants and Contracts, Ag Communications, and Ag conferences. What mechanisms are in place to make sure that these units are currently meeting faculty needs, make improvements if they are not meeting needs, and ensure these units are functional, valuable services in the future?**

The VP is considering adding additional support in Sponsored Programs for grant seeking. Additionally, the VP has asked Garvin Quinn to visit all departments to see about needs with respect to Ag Communications Services. The VP has instituted training for Unit heads on administrative services, including grants and contracts, and the division is developing more Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for administrative functions. Bob Klein is the new fiscal officer and has met with unit heads. The VP encourages all departments to request training with service units and the VP welcomes comments on administrative functions.

**5. Can automatic external defibrillators (AED) be strategically placed in Ag Hall, FAPC, elsewhere?**

The campus Environmental Health and Safety office is considering additional placement on campus. AED units are currently placed in Gallagher-Iba and the Colvin Center, currently in areas primarily related to athletics. Campus policy on placement is pending.

**6. Why was there so little publicity for Marks presentation (the Sitlington Chair position that will be associated with OSU/Noble Foundation Initiative) presented on Friday? Why was the seminar not scheduled for a larger room? Shouldn't a search of this importance warrant a better publicized interview process?**

Logistics with respect to time and place was an issue on scheduling these seminars. The VP is not aware of major problems but will review procedures for future situations to make sure that adequate notice is provided.

**7. What is the Dean's view on tuition support for Faculty and their spouses and children at OSU.**

The VP supports tuition assistance for faculty families through endowments, scholarships or other funding mechanisms which can be identified. This fall, Dr. Whitson established a new scholarship fund to support families of DASNR employees and has begun fundraising efforts.

**Old Business**

Minutes of the September AFC meeting were approved. Motion by Larry Talent and second by Michael Messiah.

**Old Business: Revision of Council By-Laws**

AFC chair Chris Richards noted that technical changes in the AFC by-laws had not been formally approved. The changes related mostly to title changes to reflect the proper title of Dr. Whitson as Vice President, Dean and Director and also to recognize the new NREM department. The other issue was whether AFC by-law notification procedures included electronic means (email) under the general heading of "notified by mail". After discussion it was agreed that "mail" included email and that future faculty notifications for voting could be done by email.

with provision for faculty to return ballots electronically or by printing a returning a paper copy. AFC voted to approve technical changes to by-laws and notify DASNR faculty of said changes.

### **New Business**

The next AFC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 7, 1:30 pm, pending the availability of VP Whitson. March 3 is alternate date.

A question was raised about the role of AFC in university level searches, e.g. OSU president. The AFC has no official role but may choose to offer input as a group.

Following the VP's discussion of possible expansion or reorganization of Sponsored Programs, discussion of need for grant proposal support ensued. There was strong sentiment that more support is needed. Support could potentially occur at department level, within DASNR or at campus level. There is a feeling among the AFC that there is an opportunity to have input and that the VP would be receptive to input on this issue. A committee of Michael Massiah, Kevin Allen, chair, and Renee Daughtery will explore models at other universities and alternatives and report back at the next AFC meeting.

Recognizing that it has been several years since the AFC-RPT committee has reviewed RPT procedures across DASNR departments, it was agreed that the RPT committee should initiate a review of departmental RPT documents and procedures.

The suggestion was made that the AFC should consider of 3 year terms to improve institutional memory of AFC. No action was taken at this time.

Submitted: Derrell Peel, Secretary