

CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting

September 7, 1995

The meeting was opened by President Purcell. An agenda was distributed and approved. The primary conclusions from the meeting are presented here in brief form. If any member of the Executive Committee has questions or suggestions, please contact Wayne Purcell by telephone or electronic mail.

A listing of the College commissions with membership and chairpersons was distributed as it has been updated in early September 1995. Chairpersons for the Extension Commission and the Research Commission will be known within a few days after meetings are convened. This listing, once finalized, will be distributed to all College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty by electronic mail with a hard copy provided to each departmental office with a memo encouraging them to distribute a copy to each faculty member.

The agenda item dealing with reviewing the by-laws and constitution was postponed. Bill Ravlin had planned to lead this discussion but was called away from campus unexpectedly and was unable to attend the meeting.

A CALS Faculty Association listserve has been developed to allow more effective communication with the CALS faculty. The Executive Committee discussed appropriate uses of this listserve and agreed that its use should be limited to important occasions, and the messages should be brief. The first communication via the listserve to the faculty will be prepared by Wayne Purcell and Kriton Hatzios. The medium will be introduced to the College faculty, and a meeting with Provost Meszaros, scheduled for September 28, will be announced. A list of telephone numbers and electronic mail addresses for members of the Executive Committee, representatives on the faculty senate, commission chairpersons, etc., will also be distributed to facilitate input from faculty to their elected representation on the CALS Faculty Association.

A review of the CALS faculty governance system has been announced by Dean Swiger, and the proposed review was discussed. There was a clear consensus that effective governance requires a two-way flow of communication and support and encouragement from both the faculty and the administration. During the 1994-95 academic year, there were a number of issues of critical importance to the college faculty where they were well and ably represented by the CALS Faculty Association. Some of these issues will be documented briefly and distributed via the listserve at a later date. There was wholehearted agreement that these are difficult times in terms of budget pressures, attitudes toward our College and the increased burdens being placed on every faculty member. There was agreement that it is in these times that effective and proactive shared governance is of ultimate importance. This message will be transmitted to the College administration via the CALS Council meeting planned for September 11 and in other appropriate forums.

A number of items were discussed that could make up a report to the CALS Council by Wayne Purcell on September 11. This included a far-ranging listing of topics from concerns about the

budget dilemma associated with extension and research being defined a outside of higher education, to concerns about how adjustments in the College are being made, to concerns about the cost of various functions on campus, including printing, meeting administration by the CEC, the charging of a 10 percent fee on foundatio accounts, etc. It was agreed that the report to the September 11 meeting of the CALS Council should deal forcefully with some of these key issues without getting too involved in detail. Detailed discussion can be prompted later by appropriate faculty co missions as they deal with some of these items and issues. Joe Marcy and others on the Executive Committee will put together a list of some of these issues with some priorities attached to pass on to appropriate commissions as possible agenda items for c nsideration during this academic year.

Wayne Purcell presented a report on the progress being made on "marketing the college," a thrust that the CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee pushed hard last year. A new public relations specialist has been hired by the College, and expectation are that he will spend a significant amount of time developing a strategic plan to market the College and to change the image of the College in the Commonwealth. The Executive Committee feels that in the very near future, it would be of value to everybo y concerned to have the public relations specialist, Stewart MacInnis, meet with the Executive Committee to establish rapport and open communication channels.

A letter from Marcella Davidson, president of the Ag Alumni Association, was distributed. She is encouraging assistance in making the 1995 Ag Alumni Homecoming, which occurs on October 14, a success. Sharon Schuler-Williams is the Virginia Tech Ag Alumni Association coordinator and needs help in a number of areas in terms of encouraging participation and support. It was agreed that Wayne Purcell would contact her and see whether or not assistance in providing mailing lists for alumni for each department ould be of benefit.

As suggested earlier in the minutes, the first meeting for the CALS Faculty Association is planned for September 28. Provost Peggy Meszaros has been invited to speak by President Elect Kriton Hatzios, who is in charge of program planning for the year. Th possibility of having Dr. Cannell at an October meeting to talk about what is being done in the College by way of structural change, reallocation, and how the various planning matrices that the departments participated in generating across the past two ears have been and are being used was discussed.

The meeting closed with a discussion of a number of the challenges facing the CALS Faculty Association this year. The Executive Committee is dedicated to being progressive and active in areas where faculty input should be involved and in surfacing issues that need to be discussed in a shared governance system within the College. All of the Executive Committee should be active in encouraging broad faculty participation and making ourselves available to anyone in the College of Agriculture and Life Science faculty group who can provide input or make suggestions as to appropriate agenda items for our various commissions during the year. It was also decided during the meeting that we will try to plan a specific meeting time during each

month so that everyone can get that time on the calendar and allow us to maximize attendance for those who are interested in participating in the Executive Committee meetings.

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