

**CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting
December 1, 2000**

Present: Eversole, Kennelly, Marcy, Mullins, Pfeiffer, Reaves, Swiger

I. Call to Order (Kennelly): 3:30pm

II. Approval of the Minutes

With a correction of the spelling of Metz, the minutes were approved as written.

III. Deans Report (Swiger)

The Dean reported on a positive meeting with Johnson, Eyre, Brown, Ridenour, Peters, and Bohland regarding the Food, Nutrition and Health Cross-Cutting Initiative. The initiative has a good level of support. In preparation for future budget requests, the deans and directors will assess faculty white papers to choose additional programmatic themes for which to seek support. The goal will be to put together packages that the university and state government will agree to support. The college seems well positioned in the contributions it can make to rural prosperity in Virginia.

News about the economy was reported as dreary.

IV. Governance

Discussion centered around whether the CALS Commission on Faculty Affairs should be retained. Don Mullins reported that there was still no consensus on the issue. The Commission is trying to anticipate problems if CFA is dissolved. Following discussion on how faculty issues can best be addressed, a motion was made by Kennelly and seconded by Marcy: that the Commission on Faculty Affairs be dissolved and that the responsibilities of CFA be taken up by the CALS Faculty Association Executive. Further, the Vice President would chair an ad hoc committee on faculty issues on an as needed basis. Proposed effective date: May 1, 2001. The motion passed.

The full set of recommendations for revising the governance system will go before the ad hoc governance committee. The Constitution must be amended at a regular faculty meeting.

V. Revision of the University Strategic Plan

The CALS Faculty Association Executive was joined by representatives of the CALS Staff Association Executive (Pat Ballard, Becky Barlow, and Dot Wnorowski) and a

representative of the Cross-Cutting Initiatives (Sue Tolin) to discuss the University Strategic Plan. The Dean indicated that he is the conduit for opinions and input on the plan. The President will chair the committee. While the past two presidents have shown a renewed interest in outreach and undergraduate teaching, President Steger has expressed the goal of Virginia Tech being a top thirty research institution. The university community has been asked to look at the academic agenda and to make suggestions for change. The following concerns were voiced: a need for infrastructure (both physical and human resources, particularly technical support), enrollment mix, undue emphasis on one mission to the exclusion of others, the trade-offs that will be required to reach top thirty status, support for faculty to receive and administer grants, the need for new collaborations between federal and state governments and industry, and lack of adequate presence to influence decision-makers in Washington DC and Richmond.

VI. Extracollegiate Faculty

The extracollegiate faculty are losing their senate representation and have asked to become a part of the CALS Faculty Association. Additional concerns were raised about their representation in the Promotion and Tenure process. Don Mullins suggested that he help create an organizational chart that will help to identify how different groups are being represented.

VII. Adjournment

Due to the late hour, the remainder of the agenda was tabled until the January meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 5:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dixie Watts Reaves (substituting for Secretary/Treasurer Eluned Jones)