

## **CALSFA Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2011.**

Attendees: Dean Alan Grant (guest), Joe Guthrie, Holly Scoggins, Renee Boyer and Achla Marathe

The meeting started at 2.05pm.

### **Update from the Dean:**

Dean Grant will forward a recommendation to department heads that the college will provide \$500 annually for CALS-FA support and departments will provide \$1,500 annually, divided among the departments based on number of faculty members on campus.

On 12/9/11, there will a Dean's Open Forum. For those who cannot attend, the Adobe Connect link will be available.

For strategic planning, working groups have been formed. The groups will be meeting weekly in the winter with the goal of having the CALS plan finalized by May 2012. The university plan should be finalized by March 2012.

AgEcon head search status: in negotiation with a potential candidate for the position.

Received recommendations from Virginia Secretary of Education Laura Fornash regarding VCE Restructuring. Recommendations included better communication with stakeholders, more transparency, clearer role for 229 Council, documentation of faculty and staff appointments, etc. Dean is working with the department heads to evaluate the fraction of time each faculty spends on teaching, research and extension. Needs to know if appropriate dollars are covering the tasks.

Federal funds are fine for this fiscal year but big uncertainty in the next fiscal year. If there are big federal cuts, it will affect VT both directly and indirectly. Indirect effect can come from sources like DOD cuts which impact Virginia and trickle down to VT. At the state level, the governor might consolidate some Boards but it is not clear what the effect of such consolidations would be.

### **Other meeting items:**

Talked about who should maintain the CALSFA website. So far Holly has been taking care of it but now she would like to hand it over. Joe will look into AHNR- IT support who might be able to help with this. The meeting minutes need to be uploaded to the website also.

The book drive is going well. Several positive responses have been heard.

Revisit the situation with governance committees. Joe will try to set up a meeting with Susan and the Dean to see if some or all of these committees should be revived.

CALSFA will organize a Spring semester seminar. An external speaker will be invited to give the seminar. Discussed some possible speakers on the topic of Innovations in Teaching. Possibly include a social (wine and cheese) might be arranged. Fralin or VBI considered as possible venues.

CALSFA members will talk to various departments at their faculty meetings to give them an update on what CALSFA has been doing and how some of the funds will be spent. They will also ask the faculty for suggestions for events in Spring.

The CALSFA members visit the following departments:

**Joe: Ag Tech, APSC, Dairy Science**

**Erik: CSES, PPWS, BSE**

**Renee: FST, HNFE, Biochemistry**

**Holly: Horticulture, Ag & Extension Education**

**Achla: Ag Econ, Entomology**

The meeting ended at 3pm.