

## **CALSFA Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2011.**

Attendees: Dean Alan Grant, Joe Guthrie, Holly Scoggins, Renee Boyer, Erik Ervin and Achla Marathe

The meeting started at 8:30am.

### **Membership Dues:**

There was concern that CALSFA has not received any membership dues from the CALS faculty at the CALS picnic and otherwise. Joe floated the idea that an efficient and equitable way to get membership dues may be to make it mandatory and have it collected through each department. Dean Grant suggested that Joe attend the next department heads' meeting and float the idea among the department heads. Joe plans to attend the dept. heads' meeting on Friday, 9/9 at 8am.

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

HABI 1 construction has been approved; state funds have been released. Will be a \$53 million project. Will begin breaking ground in late Fall this year. There will be a planning committee for this project that will keep the faculty and others updated on its status and relocation arrangements etc.

The state budget is okay but the federal budget cut is a real concern. Hurricane Irene had made things worse. The house bill made significant cuts to NIFA, 3 of the formula lines will hit VT at about \$1.6 million and this does not include AFRI cuts.

Everyone is concerned about the federal cuts. The formula funds support some of the faculty salaries. He plans to work with the Association of Land Grant Institutions since the federal cut is a national issue.

House proposed \$16 million cuts to NIFA.

Continuing to hire new faculty. Started the process in summer of 2010. 15-16 searches are in the process; some of these are spousal hires. 17 new Faculty hired so far. 3-4 searches are still going on.

The Mellon Endowed Chair position has been hard to fill since a basic research person is needed in Equine area.

Erik asked if there are guaranteed vacancies for the experiment station. The dean said that AREC and the department heads would work together to fill new positions.

### **CALSFA Events:**

CALSFA members will participate in the new faculty orientation, to be held on September 16. Holly and Erik will give a 15 min talk on how to be a well-rounded faculty. Joe will present a talk on excellence in teaching. It is an all day event, including lunch.

October 6 will be Music in the Garden. It will be held at the Hahn Garden, just before the fall break. CALSFA will sell beer and the Food Science folks will sell food.

CALS and Virginia State University are co-operating with two universities in the new nation of South Sudan to revitalize higher education in agriculture there at the Catholic University and the University of Juba. One need that has been identified is for donations of books to be collected and sent to the universities. After brief discussion, the exec committee decided to help co-ordinate the book collection efforts as a service project from CALSFA. Holly will lead this effort.

*Prepared by Achla Marathe*