

CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 19, 2016

Location: 104F Hutcheson Hall

Present: Andrew Nielson, Catherine Larochelle, and Dean Grant

Absent: Sam Doak, Jon Vest, and Rob Grange

Andrew Neilson called the meeting to order at 8:40AM.

Updates from Dean Grant:

1. Destination areas

The College is currently collecting data on the 10 destination areas, such as which department would be the logical link to the proposed destination areas. Associate Deans Sumner and Mostaghimi are involved in this process. Provost Rikakis will select between 3-5 destination areas. Identified destination areas will be announced by the end of this semester. Probability of funding available for those working in connection with the selected destination areas.

2. Budget in general assembly

Reason for optimism on the Capital side. The Governor submitted a proposed budget and Virginia Tech has the largest Capital budget. The Governor's proposed budget is likely to stay as it is. However, limited operating funds for Virginia Tech. Potential salary increase of 2% for State employees in July 2017. The House and Senate are deliberating on this salary increase. A consensus is expected in February. If the salary increase were to not be improved, Virginia Tech would intervene.

Other Business

1. Discussion on faculty eligibility to serve on CALS and University committees

All faculty (TT, research and A/P) are eligible to serve on all CALS committees. We need to check with April Myers regarding faculty eligibility to serve on University committees.

2. Revised Bylaws

We still need to vote on the revised bylaws. As no quorum was present, we need to do an email vote or wait until the next meeting.

3. Potential dates for Spring CALSFA activity.

Catherine Larochelle and Andrew Neilson discussed March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) for the social brewing event. If we want home brewers to bring product, we will need to schedule well in advance.

4. *CALSFA to host a series of short seminars on best practices for teaching.*

Catherine and Andrew Neilson discussed that it would be ideal to have one seminar this semester, and one potentially in early summer when folks are still around.

Topics of interest may include: assessment design, technology, engagement, create an environment for motivation/engagement, increasing student effort/attendance/participation, teach dry/"boring" material in an interesting way?

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20AM.

Submitted by Catherine Larochelle