

**CALS FACULTY ASSOCIATION**  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2000  
113E Engel Hall

Members present: Dan Eversole, John Hess, John Hillison, Peter Kennelly, Alan McDaniel, Don Mullins. Dean Andy Swiger and Dan Taylor

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM
2. The minutes of the December 3, 1999 were approved.
3. Treasurer's report:

November:

The balance for savings was \$ 1265.40

The balance for checking was \$ 53.40

The total balance was \$ 1318.81

December:

The balance for savings was \$ 1274.80

The balance for checking was \$ 53.40

The total balance was \$ 1328.20

Expenses for December which was not shown on this statement

November CALS refreshments \$ 21.52

Deposit from membership dues \$260.00

A total of 52 Faculty have responded so far

4. External Reviewers for Departments:

Dr. Swiger requested that the CALS Faculty Executive Committee provide nominations of University Faculty to serve on the five-year department head review committees for two CALS department heads: Dr. Jack Hall (CSES) and Dr. Cameron Hackney (FST). After discussion of a number of University faculty, the Executive Committee nominated Dr.

Mike Huston (Dept Head, Human Nutrition & Exercise Science) to serve on Dr. Hackneys review committee. The Committee nominated Dr. Jack Webster to serve on Dr. Halls review committee. Dr. Andrea Dietrick was selected as an alternate for either of the review committees.

5. Alumni Scholarship fund:

John Hillison reported on the activities of the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture Alumni Association. This Association has grown significantly in the past 3-4 years and is becoming a viable force. One project that they have undertaken is the development of an endowment fund for a Virginia Tech Agriculture Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. A total of \$25,000 is needed to initiate the fund. A total of \$15,000 has been raised. Dr. Swiger has pledged \$5,000 of support when the fund reaches \$20,000. John Hillison suggested that the CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee consider contributing funds from the CALS Faculty Association treasury. The Executive Committee took the following action. A total of \$500 from the CALS Faculty Association Treasury will be transferred to the Virginia Tech Agriculture Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, and a special call for additional support from the CALS Faculty will be included with a second for 1999/2000 CALS Faculty Association dues. It was the hope of the Executive Committee, that the Faculty will match or exceed the \$500 gift.

6. College update:

Dr. Swiger reviewed the legislative amendments that have been included in the Virginia Legislature. He is hopeful that three of the amendments affecting Virginia Agriculture and the College will have sufficient support for funding in three areas. These include: (1) The Plan to Serve Virginia that will include 15 faculty, 20 staff and operating funds, (2) funding for the new Agriculture and Forestry Building, and, (3) the livestock teaching arena. Dr. Swiger, indicated that the Farm Bureau has chosen not to support the Plan to Serve Virginia during this session, but that the Agribusiness Council has pledged its full support.

7. Modification of the CALS Governance System.

A discussion on revisiting the College Governance System was continued from the December 3, 1999 Executive Committee meeting. Dr. Swiger provided the Committee members with a copy of the CALS Faculty Association Constitution and observed that several of the College Commissions do not appear to be working on issues related to their charge. In fact, they have not been meeting regularly and because of this, the need for some of these commissions is questioned. The possibility of making changes to downsize the governance system was discussed. It was noted that special actions could be covered by the appointment of *ad hoc* committee as needed. After a considerable amount of discussion, the Executive Committee made the following recommendations for the College Faculty Association to consider: 1. The College Commission on Research

Program Policies and the College Commission on Extension Program Policies be combined to form a College Commission on Research and Extension Program Policies. 2. Eliminate the College Commission on Faculty Affairs, the College Commission on Classified Staff Affairs, and the College Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs be eliminated. 3. Merge the Faculty Associations to include College Faculty, and Administrative and Professional Faculty. 4. Provide student representation (Ag Club Council) to the College Council.

8. Commission Reports:

- Several Commissions have not yet met this year.
- Dan Taylor reported that the Commission on International Program Policies will meet early in the semester.
- Dan Eversole reported ( information conveyed from Dixie Reeves) that the College Commission on Faculty Affairs was looking into parking problems associated with the Price Hall parking lot and that they had made a recommendation that a walk way be constructed along the southwest side of West Campus Drive in front of Hillcrest Hall. The Commission is also awaiting information from the CALS Executive Committee regarding consideration of restructuring the College governance system.

5. General meetings:

Peter Kennelly reported that the next CALS Faculty Association Meeting will be held on February 10, at 4:00 PM in Fralin 102. The Provost Dr. Peggy Meszaros and Dr. Swiger will be speaking. On March 28, Dr. David Barrett will be the featured speaker.

6. Senate activity:

John Hess reported on the last Faculty Senate meeting.

- There are some changes associated with Research and Graduate studies. Gene Brown will become involved with graduate recruitment. There will be an attempt to hire a person to work in the area of minority graduate student recruitment.
- A report presented to the Senate by Eileen Hitchingham (Dean of Libraries) regarding the status of the University Library revealed some disturbing statistics. A national rating of the library indicates that the is ranked very low among its peer institutions in virtually all categories including personnel, current subscriptions,

5. Strategic Budgeting and Planning Committee;

No report.

6. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

These minutes respectfully submitted by D. E. Mullins, CALS Secretary Treasurer

Minutes Approved February 21, 2000