

CALS FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 8, 1999
113E Engel Hall

Members Present: Dan Eversole, Larry Foy, Leon Geyer, John Hess, Peter Kennelly, Joe Marcy, Alan McDaniel, Dean Swiger, and David Vaughan.

1. Dan Eversole called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.
2. Following correction of a spelling error, the September 3, 1999 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Dan Eversole delivered the treasurer's report of behalf of Don Mullins:
savings acct. balance - \$1254.12
checking acct. balance - \$53.40

4. Peter Kennelly reported on the calendar of upcoming general meetings of the faculty association. Two meetings are scheduled for fall:

- i. Nov. 18 (Thurs), 4:00 PM in 102 Fralin. Prof. Saghai-Marroof will speak on the future impact of biotechnology and genomics on agriculture.
- ii. Dec. 9 (Thurs., Reading Day) at 4:00 in 102 Fralin. Deans Brown, Eyre, and Johnson will speak on the relationship of the colleges of Natural Resources, Veterinary Medicine, and Human Resources to the VA Agricultural Experiment Station.

5. Dean Swiger provided an update on the administrative affairs of the college. He noted that, based on a recommendation of the Commission on Outreach, the P & T form will soon be revised to provide separate categories for service versus outreach and extension in recognition of the distinct nature of these missions.

Dean Swiger has been asked to chair the committee charged with developing a plan for implementing the recommendations of last year's Task Force on Advising. Prof. David Parrish will also represent CALS on this committee. The committee has been asked to complete its work by March 1.

A discussion of this year's Career Scope then ensued. Dean Swiger reported that all 84 employer booths were filled and that some employers had to be turned away. The general impression is that Career Scope is a vibrant and valuable event that has progressed well in recent years.

John Hess pointed out the need to update the CALS display used at this year's Majors Fair so as to provide more up-to-date and accurate information for students. Dan Eversole was charged with transmitting this recommendation to Deans White and Crunkilton.

6. Dan Eversole reported that the Fall picnic was a success. An estimated 75-80 persons were served (versus \approx 45 last year) for a cost of roughly \$3 per person [\$237].

7. Larry Foy discussed the parking situation with parking near Price Hall and the Ag Quad. The increasing frequency with which Ag Quad occupants are now forced to park in the area behind Litton-Reaves Hall has raised awareness of the lack of a safe pedestrian route from the parking area to the Ag Quad. The most direct connection, the road between the Grove and Wallace Annex, lacks sidewalks and is flanked by deep gutters, thus frequently places pedestrians at risk from speeding vehicles. In addition, the distance involved renders it difficult for a person to carry materials to and from their vehicle and meet tight schedules. At a minimum, it is recommended that a safe, graded pedestrian sidewalk or trail be installed.

8. John Hess reported that the Faculty Senate intends to be more active in communicating with their constituents. A faculty climate survey is contemplated. This catalyzed a discussion on the proposed changes in class schedules to accommodate the new 15 minute interval between classes. While the need to accommodate students walking long distances clearly needs to be recognized, the abolition of Friday classes in particular was viewed by several members as a source of serious concern. Several members expressed concern that the students might construe this policy as one of official encouragement to engage in 'social' activities to a degree that might prove detrimental to both academic performance and health. Leon Geyer was charged with communicating to the Faculty Senate Cabinet a request for the Faculty Senate to discuss the no Friday classes policy.

9. Commission reports:

Joe Marcy reported on behalf of the Commission on Outreach that notification was recently received that the Donaldson Brown Center will now charge for the use of its meeting rooms. The fees are anticipated to be in the hundreds of dollars.

Peter Kennelly reported on behalf of the University Commission on Budgeting and Planning. The last meeting was an orientation session in which no issues were discussed.

Dan Eversole reported that he had yet to be informed as to the identities of the new chairs for three commissions: Extension Program Policies, AP Faculty, and Research Program Policies. A vigorous discussion of the effectiveness and efficiency of the current governance structure ensued. It was observed that many commissions showed little evidence of activity over a period of several years, raising questions as to whether changes in the

number and organization of commissions might promote more effective faculty participation in governance. It was resolved that a more extensive discussion of this issue be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM

These minutes were recorded by Peter Kennelly and respectfully submitted by Don Mullins, Secretary/Treasurer.

Approved: December 3, 1999