

MINUTES
CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting

January 31, 2007
104 Hutcheson Hall

Members Present

Scott Salom, Bill Barbeau, Holly Scoggins, Joe Eifert and Doug Pfeiffer convened at 1:30 PM, joined by Dean Sharron Quisenberry.

Update from Dean Quisenberry

Preparatory to the upcoming CALSFA-sponsored session of faculty sabbaticals, we discussed the issue of sabbaticals with the dean. Currently, there are only a limited number of full-year sabbaticals, but there are also short term, less formal, sabbaticals. These are easier to arrange. Dixie Reaves is about to initiate one of these short-term, 1-semester sabbaticals. There is an Internal filling of teaching and other responsibilities. Several Improvements in this year's eFARS were discussed. There was also discussion of the CALS New Faculty Orientation, such as the desirability of PowerPoint presentations, and the specific venue. Dean Quisenberry suggested 311 Latham; another possibility is the Smyth classroom. There is some discussion on a new concept called Professor of the Practice; more discussion will be forthcoming. Farm Bureau will be visiting campus in mid-April. Material will be presented to them on obesity, with a 2nd day on more general CALS programs. The College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Natural Resources will be involved, also. We are approaching the Kickoff for the Open Phase of the Capital Campaign in late April or May. Approximately 1000 people will come to campus for this event. There are plans to showcase CALS. The event will be an Ut Prosim weekend. There was additional discussion on a statistical hire to serve the college; this hire is on hold. The issue of statistical education for our students is still a problem. Faculty governance was discussed – how much governance actually occurs? The university is trying to make policies more clear, on web site, etc.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no discussion

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Dec 15, 2006 CALSFA meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Doug Pfeiffer reported that the Association checking account has a balance of \$1003.11 and the savings account balance is \$577.66, according to the credit union statement through 31 December. There are still 62 paid members, surpassing the figure for last year,

Committee Reports

None.

Senate Report

The Faculty Senate report was made by Pfeiffer. Progress toward the university meeting the 60th percentile in faculty salaries is slow, but the administration is still trying for this goal by 2010. SCHEV wants each university to redefine its peer group (VT believes its peer group is still valid). Flexibility in selecting AY/CY salary is still being sought. There has been some progress towards a Faculty Club. President Steger is currently sponsoring trial sessions at Torgerson Museum. We should urge our faculty to attend. The university is working towards uniformity in composition of P&T committees. A review of undergraduate student evaluations of teaching will be discussed next time at Faculty Senate.

Old Business

- Scoggins distributed an announcement for Sabbatical Discussion, and asked for committee input. Few faculty members in CALS have taken sabbatical recently – most of those have been in Ag Econ. There was discussion on potential ways to improve support for faculty members going on sabbatical. A specific concern voiced was finding someone to fill in teaching courses. The poster announcing the function will be distributed over the college listserv.

New Business

- Ken Eriksson gave Scott Salom material on Faculty Reconciliation. This could be a future forum topic.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 AM.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 21 Feb 2007 at 9:00.

Submitted 19 Feb 2007 by Doug Pfeiffer, CALSFA Secretary/Treasurer for 2006-07.