

MINUTES
CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting

November 16, 2006
104 Hutcheson Hall

Members Present

Scott Salom, Carlyle Brewster, Joe Eifert, Holly Scoggins, Ron Lewis, Jeff Alwang, Bill Barbeau, and Mike Roberts (VESA, President) by phone) convened at 10:00am, joined by Dean Sharron Quisenberry.

Update from Dean

Undergrad enrollment up to 2200+, an increase of 400+ over 3 years. Grad student enrollment up from 260 to 417 in one year. Grants up 26% over past year.

At the recent National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) meeting, discussion of new ways to use USDA formula funds. Some universities or others want to use more for competitive proposals. Formula funds for Hatch and Extension are used almost entirely for salaries at VT.

Small faculty group dinners have generated good dialogue with Dean. So far, few questions have been proposed for the "Dean's Chat". The spring Dean's Forum may have a different format than the upcoming Fall forum.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with no discussion

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the November 16, 2006 CALSFA meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Salom reported, on behalf of Doug Pfeiffer, that the Association checking account has a balance of \$1079.61 and the savings account balance is \$576.61. Current year membership is currently at 61 (same as last year).

Discussion of how to encourage more memberships. Perhaps advertise our role and accomplishments, encourage more Dept. Heads to join, advertise the new faculty P&T handbook giveaway, honor retirees at our Spring social.

Committee Reports

Committee on International Program Policy – Ron Lewis reported that the undergraduate study abroad awards (\$10,000) have been awarded for this year. This is money from the Dean. Number of applicants is increasing.

Faculty Senate Report – Jeff Alwang reported the Faculty Senate has focused on:

- Resolutions of the commission on Faculty Affairs related to composition of P&T committees and revision of wording relative to descriptions of grievable offenses.

- Establishment of a Faculty Club. Upcoming announcement of a weekly (Thursdays 3p to 5:30p) gathering in Torgerson for the Spring semester.

- Reaccreditation of the University

- Overall salary situation for faculty, increased flexibility in retirement program.

- Attendees discussed how VT may change the peer group of universities that determine our target 60th percentile for salaries. Currently, we are only at 37th percentile and would need salary increases of \$7K to get to 60th percentile.

Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) - Carlyle Brewster reported on these issues:

- Standardizing P&T process. P&T review should be independent. Deans should vote once. Generally, Deans and Dept. Heads should not be able to vote more than once or serve on more than one level committee, or serve/vote/chair one committee and serve/vote/chair on a second level committee. Dean does not vote at College P&T meetings, but should they even attend?

- Instructional faculty: Adjunct faculty designated as Assistant/Associate “Professor of Practice”. They could be promoted, serve on grad advisory committees, can be moved into tenure track, can be paid, etc.

- Student evaluation of teaching- should we continue to use the single number rating? Consider using specific faculty questions, consider how to use/not use outliers, etc.. System may require log-in of online evaluations. Concerns: online evaluations tend to be more polar (more positive or more negative), late drop students may still be able to evaluate, may be mandatory system, may integrate into P&T process.

Old Business

Spring Forum planning: Postponed discussion on having a forum with Department Heads. Discussed having “Sabbaticals” as the topic of the Spring Forum. Will consider a Feb or Mar date at the Hahn Pavillion.

CALSFA selected a non-College administrator to serve on Regional Extension Director Review, at request of the Dean.

Scott Salom has been asked to serve on the Search Committee for the College Human Resources Position.

New Business

Dean's Chat discussion postponed.

Suggestion to invite Tim Mack to CALSFA meeting to explain the proposed hire in statistics for CALS.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30a.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 15, 8:00-9:30a in Hutcheson 104F.

Submitted 11/21/2006 by Joe Eifert, CALSFA Secretary/Treasurer for 2006-07.