

Minutes

CALS Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting
September 21, 2006 104 Hutcheson Hall

Members Present

Holly Scoggins, Scott Salom, Bill Barbeau, Joe Eifert, Ron Lewis, Ruth Grene, Mike Roberts (president of VESA, by conference call) and Sharron Quisenberry convened at 10:00 am.

Update from Dean

College advisory council created to enhance communication. A "chat room" may be set-up to facilitate communication between Dean and faculty. Dean would like to facilitate communication among research groups. Perhaps faculty profiles.

Encouraged to attend upcoming Dean's Forum to learn more about what our colleagues are doing. In October the Dean's Forum topic is Energy, then environment (spring 07), food, nutrition and health (fall 07), infectious disease (spring 08). Currently 60-80 posters are expected at the October Dean's Forum.

Issue raised on a equipment list. Need a searchable database to locate (larger, new and old) equipment that could be shared.

A college-wide system for equipment service contracts is not feasible (too costly, etc.).

College growth in new faculty hires, undergraduate enrollment, doctoral student numbers.

Cluster hires complete for Vector-borne diseases, one left for infectious diseases

Then, evaluation of programs for new clusters or additions to recent clusters. New hires will be considered with input from other colleges. Most new hires have not been part of a cluster hire, many have been new positions or replacement hires.

Dedication of Latham Hall tomorrow

New CRC building will be primarily FST and HNFE. Planning funds requested for a new (HBBI ?) building for health, bioprocessing, food safety. Location will be in the life science corridor (parking lots near VBI).

College-based statistician position update- person would do some teaching and some consulting. Need statistician for Hatch projects and for course(s) tailored for CALS grad students. College wants to hire a M.S. level person. Currently may be roadblocks that include the following. Can a M.S. individual teach classes? Where will they be housed within CALS and

will they get support from Statistics department? Should a doctoral level person be considered (non-tenure track, A/P faculty)?

Approval of Agenda

No discussion

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 13, 2006 CALSFA meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Salom reported on behalf of Doug Pfeiffer. We have 11 members signed up for 06-07. Checking account balance is currently \$950.30 and the savings account balance is \$572.95.

Committee Reports

Ron Lewis (CALS Committee on International Program Policy) reported on the Undergraduate Student Study Abroad Scholarship program. Applications due in October. Last year, 10 students applied for the \$10,000 available. 5 students were awarded \$1,000 to \$2,500 each. Announcement and fact sheet distributed to attendees.

Ruth Grene (Faculty Senate) – proposed Faculty Club considered to be housed at the University Club. But, this does not have kitchen facilities that meet Code. Unknown the cost of renovations and who could pay.

Consideration of a student “green fee” to enhance recycling and other environmental improvement efforts.

Old Business

Status of book for new faculty members – 15 books ordered through VT bookstore, but not available till October.

Website – Holly Scoggins continues to make updates and format changes

Survey - Initial responses favor using CALSFA dues for the proposed faculty teaching award supplement. Most have responded that they can attend the social (12 of 16). Scott Salom will send a new e-mail reminder/invitation.

Fall membership drive social – We need to ensure people pay dues on admission. Sean O’Keefe will provide a beer tasting exercise.

New Business

CALSFA input to Stephen Kleiber (University Benefits Committee) - asked to provide input on benefits issues, especially on a) restructuring (new University employee) and 2) long- term and short-term disability benefits.

CALSFA rep requested for a Committee being formed by Martin Daniel on faculty evaluation – committee wants to focus on communications issues, especially the evaluation process and a plan to address concerns. Bill Barbeau offered to represent CALSFA on this committee.

Fall forum ideas - we will solicit ideas later (at fall social ?)

Dean's chat (anonymous chatroom) to improve communication –

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 11 @ 2:30 p in Hutcheson 104F.

Submitted 9/22/06 by Joe Eifert, CALSFA Vice-President for 2006-07