

Faculty Advisory Committee to the Dean Meeting
November 18, 2009
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Room 221, Henning Building

In Attendance: John Coupland, Matthew Kaplan, Jason Kaye, Kathleen Kelley, Martin McGann, Troy Ott, Eileen Wheeler, Eric Zenner

Unable to Attend: Mary Barbercheck, Liwang Cui, Jill Findeis, Bhashan Jayarao, Timothy McNellis, Ramesh Ramachandran

Opening Remarks:

Chair Martin McGann called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and reported that he received an email message from Ann Dodd advising that she is interested in a joint discussion with the graduate student advisory council and FACD committee in the future to discuss development of mechanisms to provide better communication and collaboration between the departments. It was decided to respond by thanking her for the message and the committee is interested in meeting in future once more information becomes available.

Communication Issue Discussion:

- One recommendation to increase collaboration/communication was to have presentations at department faculty meetings by faculty from other departments. The presenter would speak 15 minutes to discuss new research proposals, updates on current projects, etc.
- Since *Ag Communicator* is no longer printed, how has this been replaced or is there a need for a similar communication tool to be developed?
- Possibly meet with CAS IT about how they are improving communications, new mechanisms that can be employed. A report should be available by January from University IT that could shed light on ways to promote collaborative initiatives.

Other Issues / Ideas:

- Discussion about how to determine the FACD committee response to an issue that is defined as important and relevant to majority of faculty. Committee members offered a few ideas for action in gathering input from faculty:
 - Present and request input at department faculty meetings
 - Hold separate meetings to determine issues that are distinct to Extension, Res. Ed. and P & T
 - Send email survey similar to Dean's cost savings model requesting input from faculty about an issue
 - Assign a sub-committee to investigate needs and possible solutions.
- New Web page development in Plone. FACD members voiced concerned that there is a deterioration of Web and graphic design services resulting in PI's being made responsible for developing Web content and loading pages. This action is causing program work to not be completed due to the additional Web responsibility. Another time consuming task mentioned was the overwhelming number of email messages from various offices that some find irrelevant, e.g., Grants and Contracts messages requesting call for proposals.

Actions:

- Find out what resources are available in college and departments (possibility of other committees working on various aspects of communication).
- Have discussion with Mary Barbercheck and John Becker about their roles and how to collaborate efforts with FACD committee. Possibly request their attendance at December meeting.
- Determine functions of other CAS committees and review CAS Faculty Meeting Survey Report.
- Issues that have importance in all departments:
 - Improve communication between faculty
 - Reduce barriers to productivity
 - Raise awareness of work done by other faculty within the college and promote collaborative initiatives
 - Define responsibilities with the All Faculty Committee to see where we have overlap and synergy

Since the FACD committee may require more information and discussion before presenting issues to Dean McPherson for his input, Chair McGann advised he would send notification to committee to determine if the dean's presence is required to either address FACD issues or if he has his own items to share with the committee at the next FACD meeting on December 15.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Teeters

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Next FACD Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 9-11:00 AM, Room 118 Agricultural Sciences and Industries (ASI)