

## **Faculty Advisory Committee to the Dean Meeting Minutes**

Friday, March 20, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. , Room 118 ASI

**Attendance: FACD members:** Paul Heinemann, Matt Kaplan, Robert Beelman, Margot Kaye, Eric Zenner, Bill Curran, Troy Ott, Mary Barbercheck, John Vanden Heuvel, Wakar Uddin

**Unable to attend:**, Jeff Hyde, Liwang Cui, Ramesh Ramachandran, Martin McGann

Chair Paul Heinemann called the meeting to order. Next meeting of this committee can be with the newly appointed dean. Paul asked the group to think about questions for the new Dean at this next meeting. Next meeting could be scheduled for late May – the week after commencement. New Chair will need to be elected at our next meeting.

Reminder – April 20 is the College Faculty Meeting.

### **Questions for the Dean that the group came forward with:**

- As a soon-to-be faculty member, what questions would Dr. Steele bring to the new Dean related to this committee?
- Clarification on the 2 + 2 systems
- Clarification on split appointments and being in line with the rest of the University – how does extension fit in
- How bad is it at other Land grant Universities
- Capital project status
- Rockview
- Circleville Farm

### **Dean Steele's updates and reports:**

The Board of Trustees voted today to approve the new dean, Dr. Bruce McPheron, and the transition has begun for him to be fully engaged by July 1, 2009. His first challenge will be to fill his old position (associate dean for research and graduate education). University Policy mandates a national search (or permission by Old Main).

The president reported this morning at the Trustee meeting that applications to the university continue to be strong and they expect a “healthy fall class”.

### **Federal and State Budget:**

Capitol Day event was this week in Harrisburg. More than 170 of our citizen advocates descended upon the capitol to carry our budget message to and build support for our programs in the legislative offices (approx. 535). A one-page document describing the College budget request is posted on the college website (Unit Leaders got copies).

In 2009, three important things have happened (so far):

- 1) Federal omnibus bill passed to fund the current federal fiscal year with generally a 5-6% increase;
- 2) Passage of President Obama's stimulus bill, which will result in significant one-time funds for PA. What PA is going to with the stimulus package can be viewed at the State website [www.pa.gov](http://www.pa.gov).
- 3) President Obama presented his FY 09/10 budget proposal in concept form – 145 pages of words – formal budget with numbers will come in April.

On the State budget – President Spanier gave his testimony at the appropriation committee hearings.

The Governor's budget has a 6% cut over our current year funding, with everything lumped into one line.

Is this a one-time cut or a precedent? Despite this cut, other schools are in much worse shape than we are.

On capital project status – nothing has been cancelled – just stalled. The credit market is a problem. On the priority list – nothing has moved. The Children’s hospital is on hold. Millenium building is moving ahead. Henning bldg. upgrade is on the list but will drop down. Arboretum is moving ahead (funded by private donations), ribbon cutting ceremony will be in September or October. Ag Engineering bldg. is also on the list. Insectary and BSL3 still moving forward.

Status of Rockview land – Steering committee meeting was today, public hearing next week. April 15 is deliverable date.

Discussion followed on the faculty contracts and unique split appointments. This has been discussed often through Dean Steele’s tenure. This is an ongoing discussion with Old Main and it is unknown if and/or when Ag faculty contracts will change.

The committee asked Dean Steele what issues he thought this committee should bring to the attention of the new Dean. Dean Steele suggested the following:

- Role of this committee
- Faculty meeting poor attendance
- Faculty Governance

The FACD’s next meeting will be scheduled in late May with the new Dean.

Paul Heinemann, Chair, FACD

Kathy Pletcher, Administrative Assistant