

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2021

Attendees: Dr. Cindy Akers (Acting Dean), Dr. Christy Bratcher, Jane Piercy, Laci Hardman, Norman Martin, Dr. Phil Johnson, Dr. Scott Burris, Prof. Eric Bernard, Dr. Warren Conway, Dr. Glen Ritchie, and Dr. Mike Ballou.

Presentations from Dr. Nouredine Abidi (FBRI), Dr. Brad Dabbert (Quail-Tech Alliance), and Claire Cleveland (Scholarships, Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center) were made to the Administrative Council prior to the business portion of the meeting.

1. Minutes from the March 15, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.
2. Dr. Akers updated the council on the HEF funds that the Provost's Office indicated CASNR would be receiving this year. Our allocated portion is \$264,005.35. Dr. Akers has also been asked by Sean Childers about the elevator in the Ag Sciences Building and he needs a commitment of \$400,000 from CASNR for this project. Noel Sloan's office has been holding \$250,000 for us to put towards the elevator, and if we use \$150,000 of the HEF money, we will meet our \$400,000 total. Dr. Akers noted that would leave us with \$114,005.35 of HEF funds for projects in the college. She asked the chairs to be thinking of ways to use these funds for needed projects, and we can discuss these at the next meeting.
3. Dr. Akers has received nominations from each department chair to create a special Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Strategic Planning Committee. The following faculty and staff will make up the committee:

Sandra Addo, Co-Chair (CASNR)
Jyotsna Sharma, Co-Chair (PSS)
Nina Ham, AAEC
Michael Farmer, AAEC
Jason Headrick, AEC
David Doerfert, AEC
Jhones Sarturi, AFS
Hannah Gauthier, AFS
Muntazar Monsur, LA
Jared Horsford, LA
Bryan Richardson, NRM
Matt Barnes, NRM
Damar Lopez-Arredondo, PSS
Vinicius Machado, VS

A formal request will go out to these committee members soon, and hopefully the initial meeting can take place in early May.

4. Research Update – Dr. Bratcher attended a Research Advisory Council meeting on Monday regarding the memo from President Schovanec that everyone received yesterday about transitioning back to Phase I. Thursday night she will attend the Global Vision Awards with several others from the college. Dr. Bratcher returned from Austin today where she attended a Senate hearing regarding Senate Bill 601 – relating to the creation and activities of the Texas

Produced Water Consortium. She noted this will most likely go up for a vote at the next session. If approved, the Consortium would be housed at TTU and would give us \$250,000 a year for 2 years to put together a feasibility plan to take the produce water off the oils and gas fields and find a way to use it. CASNR, Rawls College of Business and the College of Engineering will be co-directors. Please be thinking of someone in CASNR who would be good to lead/co-direct this project for us.

5. Communications Update – Norman Martin reported that the eNewsletter would be going out today. He has lots of content that will be going up on the CASNR website this week, and is currently working on a large project for the Student Success Center for Red Raider Orientation, since it will all be online again this summer. Dr. Akers noted that they are looking for hands-on and fun ideas for the in person “Raiderland Experience.” If anyone has ideas please let Shelby or Stephanie know.
6. Finance Update – Laci reported that she was working with the business managers on budget prep and summer budget and will be in contact with everyone soon with what these budgets are looking like.
7. Development Update – Jane reported she was contacted by an alumnus of Ag Engineering who was a student of Marvin Dvoracek. Mr. Dvoracek lost his wife last year and he is currently battling stage 4 lung cancer. It was his desire to send out a letter to all of his former students to reconnect as well as seek out contributions for a scholarship and a possible permanent reminder (plaque) of the Ag Engineering program. Jane also stated that the college lost a dear friend last week. Jim Prewitt had served on the CASNR advisory board, was a strong supporter of the CASNR Congressional Internship Program and was instrumental in helping develop the Matador Institute of Leadership Engagement (MILE) program.

8. Department Updates:

AAEC – Dr. Johnson said his faculty were looking forward to the end of the semester and were busy preparing for the summer. He hopes everyone will be back in the classroom in the fall.

AEC – Dr. Burris said this was a very busy time, things were going well and it was “all hands on deck.” He announced that Dr. Courtney Meyers has received the President’s Academic Achievement Award, and Dr. John Rayfield was selected as an Integrated Scholar.

LA – Prof. Bernard has been dealing with a couple of health issues which has complicated things. The department has been helping with several special projects recently from the President’s Office. The Texas ASLA meeting is coming up soon, and will be a “hybrid” type meeting. Some people will be there in person and some attending online. Prof. Bernard also noted an alumnus gave a donation to start a scholarship last week.

NRM – Dr. Conway reported NRM has their summer curriculum in good shape, and the fall is coming together. Things seem to have calmed down recently and advising has been going well. He noted they are at approximately 260 students for fall. The faculty have been digging into the undergraduate curriculum recently, trying to plan better for course rotations, etc. They have all been very productive as a lot of proposal requests have been coming through. Dr. Conway stated that they have agreed to cohost the SWAN (Southwestern Association of Naturalists) annual meeting in Junction in April of 2022 at the Llano River Field station. He

also noted they will be holding a “hybrid” fundraiser on May 21st to raise funds to help defray costs for students who would like to take classes in Junction.

PSS – Dr. Ritchie announced they will be helping with the FFA contests this weekend that will be held at Texas Tech. He is working on training his replacement for the agronomy contest. The PSS faculty have been diligently working on updating their strategic plan. Dr. Ritchie stated that overall it has been a successful spring semester. Most of his faculty and staff have transitioned back to working on campus.

Dr. Akers reminded the chairs to continue working on their departmental strategic plans and to make this a priority. She also stated that we still need to worry about retention and to please reach out to Stephanie if need be. Now is the time to look at your unenrolled students (for fall) while they are still here on campus.