**Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2017**

Attendees: Dr. David Weindorf, Dr. Michael Ballou, Jane Piercy, Norman Martin, Galen Austin, Dr. Phil Johnson, Dr. Courtney Gibson, Dr. Mike Orth, Prof. Eric Bernard, Dr. Mark Wallace, and Dr. Eric Hequet

1. Minutes from the April 17, 2017 Administrative Council meeting were approved as distributed.
2. Dr. Erica Irlbeck spoke to the group regarding a plan to begin promoting the college to the farming community. An intern has been hired to help put together press releases with videos to the Ag Community media. Department chairs should receive an e-mail sometime in June regarding setting up a time to discuss stories that they can get started on.
3. The results of the balloting for the award nominees for the 2017-18 academic year were discussed and approved.

OTHER

The scholarship and admits/apps reports were distributed, and if anyone should have questions please direct them to Dr. Cindy Akers.

Dr. Hequet reported that PSS will have a candidate on campus at the end of this week for the enology and viticulture position that is open in Fredericksburg. They will be bringing in another candidate next week for the vegetable production position, and will be bringing three candidates in for the plant ecohydrology/ecological modeling position in the near future. The retirement reception for Dr. Terry McLendon last week was well attended with many students, faculty and administration present.

Prof. Bernard announced LA is in the process of certifying their search and are hoping to bring two candidates to campus soon. Depending on the outcome of those interviews, they may extend the search. He also reported the construction on the CASNR Annex is becoming longer and more expensive than originally planned. The Life Safety Upgrade that has already been delayed once in the Pavilion has been delayed again. He noted that the Texas chapter of the ASLA meeting was held in Austin recently, and for the first time in many years Texas Tech students won some awards. This was the largest meeting they have had in many years (approximately 600 in attendance), and the Texas Tech Alumni reception was also well attended (100+).

Dr. Ballou noted that the CASNR Dean Search Committee will have their initial meeting tomorrow. A search firm has been hired to help conduct the search. He also reported that the Regional Research meeting held a couple of weeks ago was a success. They had 8 or 9 institutions in attendance. He is hoping to try to get someone from each institution that attended to help work on some grant proposals as well as some possible collaborations. Dr. Ballou stated the two new vet science faculty members will be here in the fall and they are currently trying to locate lab space for them. He also reported we will need to try and identify some strategies to increase federal funding, in response to an internal e-mail sent last week from the VPR’s office.

Jane Piercy mentioned the 50th class reunion held on May 4th was a success, and she is hoping many of the attendees will donate towards the dairy barn restoration fund. About $160,000 out of $1.2 million needed has been raised to date. She also noted the press conference announcing the $2,000,000 gift from Teys for the meat science research and $750,000 from Cargill for a professorship last week went very well.  Jane stated a bequest gift for the NRM department is coming that will help fund student scholarships.

She noted our fund raising numbers are very good this year and we are on track to have another successful year.

Dr. Courtney Gibson (substituting for Dr. Burris) noted that most of the AE&C Faculty would be in California this week attending the national AAAE meetings.

Dr. Orth reported that they will be bringing candidates to campus soon for the open beef cattle nutrition position. They will also have a new faculty member here in the fall for the grazing management/beef cattle science position. Dr. Orth stated the college strategic planning meeting was very good and led to a lot of good discussion. Each department will provide their own mission/vision statement, and they will take all of those and see what they can create for the college.

Dr. Johnson stated that AAEC had a faculty member in Greece last week, and that they are working on getting through finals and submitting grades.

Dr. Wallace noted that NRM has no new faculty this year and they are currently working on strategic planning for the coming years.

Norman Martin announced that CASNR has rolled their website over to the new OMNI system and they are trying to work out all the problems/issues this has caused. He noted that the archived news content now only goes back to 2012. They have had to go back through thousands of news articles to make corrections that were corrupted during the transition. If you come across anything that is wrong, please let Norman know. He also stated that a new web page will be on the website for newly funded research. The listing will be “by proposal,” and will also include the names of the PI’s. If, for some reason, your PI’s do not want their proposal listed, please have them contact Norman.

Dr. Galen Austin indicated that grant proposal submissions are up and things are going well.

Dr. Weindorf stated a new undergraduate award for “outstanding research student” will be added to the current list of undergraduate student awards. He also reported that it looks like Project Revolution will have a call for proposals sometime in late summer.