

## **Administrative Council Meeting Minutes**

### **June 21, 2021**

Attendees: Dr. Cindy Akers (Interim Dean), Dr. Christy Bratcher, Dr. Chance Brooks, Jane Piercy, Norman Martin, Laci Hardman, Dr. Phil Johnson, Dr. Scott Burris, Dr. Michael Orth, Prof. Eric Bernard, Dr. Glen Ritchie, and Dr. Mike Ballou.

Presentations from Tate Corliss (Raider Red Meats), Vikram Baliga (Teaching Greenhouses), and Macie Williams (Undergraduate Programs, Dr. Bill Bennett Student Success Center) were made to the Administrative Council prior to the business portion of the meeting.

1. Minutes from the May 17, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.
2. HEF Funds – Dr. Akers indicated that we will allocate a little over \$40,000 to AAEC to replace computers that were damaged by water back in April. This will leave approximately \$73,000 for other needs.
3. The Co-Director for the Water Consortium will be Prof. Eric Bernard, Department Chair for Landscape Architecture. Prof. Bernard and Dr. Bratcher attended a meeting discussing this consortium and what the goal of the committee will be. They will be looking for alternative ways to use the production water that is used in the oil fields. They need to understand the challenges and then be able to communicate these challenges. It would be good to get ag producers and industry people involved to help discover how this could affect the ag industry and possible ideas on solutions pertaining to how to economically use the saline production water.
4. Dr. Akers discussed the upcoming advisory board meeting. She would like for it to be more of a discussion session pertaining to the four research topics the university is focusing on: Climate, One Health, Rural Resiliency and Prosperity, and Energy. She would like to divide everyone into four groups to discuss how these topics affect us both in our research and our ag industry. She also asked the chairs to complete a one-pager and get to her before August 1<sup>st</sup> so that this can be sent out to the Advisory Board.
5. Dr. Bratcher gave a research update and noted that TTU focus groups have been assigned the four topics (Climate, One Health, Rural Resiliency and Prosperity, and Energy) to work on, as this will eventually be built into a new University Strategic Plan.
6. Dr. Akers updated everyone in the merit and equity/compression adjustment requests. It was noted that the department chairs are waiting to be sent a list to look at before they can advise Dr. Akers on what adjustments they would like to make. The chairs are supposed to receive these lists by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

7. Dr. Brooks and Dr. Bratcher gave an update on the Faculty Retreat. They have put together a survey to send to the Faculty with several topics for them to vote on. This will be sent out today.
8. Dr. Akers reminded the chairs to please get their ballots to Julann by Friday for the University and CASNR Awards. A follow-up meeting will be arranged to discuss the outcome of the balloting. She also asked the chairs to please be working on their department strategic plans, looking at the 4 topics we have discussed, where the needs in the department are in conjunction with those topics, etc.
9. Norman Martin reported that Chris Cook with the Office of Communications and Marketing has left. He is not sure where this leaves us in regards to website design, using established templates, etc. Dr. Bratcher indicated we may need to invite Matt Dewey to one of our meetings and have him give us an update on TTU Communications and Marketing procedures we need to be watching for.
10. Laci Hardman stated that summer funds have been dispersed, and she has been working with the departmental business managers to help them with funds that will be lost if we don't use them, 16K adjustments, etc. She also noted that she would like to start quarterly meetings with the department chairs, business managers, Dr. Akers and herself to discuss budget/finance updates and any other items that may need to be discussed. The chairs were in favor of this.
11. Jane Piercy asked Chance Brooks to give an update on the Ranch Management Program Advisory Board meeting that was held recently. Dr. Brooks reported that the Program has cleared the college curriculum committee and is now moving forward to the TTU Academic Council. Once it has been approved there, it will move forward to the Board of Regents. Dr. Brooks was not certain Academic Council would be meeting in July, so we may not get this approved to move forward and make the agenda for the August Board of Regents meeting. Jane indicated the Ranch Management Advisory Board was very helpful in identifying stakeholders, as well as recognizing what some of our financial needs might be. Jane was excited that the CASNR Development team has already reached their goal for this year and has raised over \$7M in donations. They have received two \$25,000 gifts to go towards current use scholarships. This is wonderful as the number of students applying to CASNR that qualify for Dean's gold and silver scholarships has tripled over the last 10 years.

## DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

AAEC – Dr. Johnson indicated that about half of his faculty were still on campus but things in the department were pretty quiet.

AEC – Dr. Burris noted things were going well in Ag Ed & Com. Today they have ag teachers from the region here participating in an “Agricultural Experience Tracker” event being held in the Dairy Barn loft.

AFS – Dr. Orth stated they were close to hiring a new Equestrian Center director. He said the next big issue they are working on is figuring out how they will handle all the new students they are expecting in the fall. The last count showed close to 400 new students.

LA – Prof. Bernard reported that construction at the Pavilion is underway, but he is not sure it will get completed by the start of school (August 23<sup>rd</sup>). He said after taking out all the duct work the Pavilion will look more like the historic Pavilion of old. He indicated costs for this work have been challenging, but the college and university have stepped up and thus far covered the costs.

VS – Dr. Ballou said Vet Sciences and the School of Veterinary Medicine have several faculty collaborations currently in progress. Clarissa Strieder-Barboza is here and is getting set up in ESB II. He noted she has already submitted a couple of grant proposals.

*Dr. Ritchie (PSS) had to leave the meeting before the updates, and Dr Conway (NRM) was in Junction teaching a summer course.*