College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
Faculty Executive Committee  
Friday, October 9, 2015, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Minutes

Present – Patrick Brown, David Campbell, Adam Contreras, Zhe Chen, Sue Ebeler, Linda Harris, Alan Hastings, Ben Houlton, Kalen Kasraie, Ermias Kebreab, Emilio Laca and David Mill,

Absent – Helene Dillard, Deborah Golino, Toby O’Geen, Alison Van Eenennaam and Huaijun Zhou

Guests – Jan Dvorak, Marie Jasieniuk and Dan Kliebenstein

Consent Items  
A motion was made to approve the consent calendar: the minutes from the May 22, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business  
The meeting started with new business discussion about Cluster 1, 2014-15 college program reviews, presented by 2014-15 Undergraduate Program Review Committee (UPRC) chair Dan Kliebenstein. Programs in this CA&ES cluster include – Biotechnology, Ecological Management and Restoration, Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry, International Agricultural Development, Landscape Architecture, Plant Sciences, and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. Dan reported that the Academic Senate administers the program review process, a change that occurred in the last few years. The chair of the college UPRC, by ex officio status, is on the Academic Senate Undergraduate Instruction and Program Review (UIPR) committee, a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Council.

Dan said that recurring comments noticed in the reviews, common to all the campus majors included the following details: 1) a request for more TA and lab support, 2) the need to address GIS courses. Part of the suspected reason for lack of enough GIS courses is the high cost of software and computers, and 3) the challenges with interdisciplinary majors. Interdisciplinary majors start enthusiastically, but through time may jump from one home department to another, creating inconsistencies. If participating departments are not talking with one another, miscommunications may occur, causing an overlap in core courses or lack of knowledge when a professor in a department retires.

Comments on Multi-disciplinary Majors  
Landscape Architecture – This is a small, integrated major. Weaknesses noted were a lack of enough faculty expertise in GIS and environmental psychology (human interaction appreciation).

Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems – This is a strong, unique major that offers internships for students. Weaknesses concern advising and the need to help students find internships. Recently, per comment of associate dean Sue Ebeler, the administrative cluster hired additional adviser to reduce the student to adviser ratio to 350:1.
International Agricultural Development – This is a small major that has a strong curriculum and a motivated student body. It combines social science and applied agricultural science. The Academic Senate suggests the department hire a social scientist to replace a faculty member who retired but was never replaced.

Biotechnology – This is an interdisciplinary major with Plant Sciences and Animal Science. Its strength is its uniqueness in a program in modern applied biology that includes ethics and lab courses. Its weakness is a recent decline in enrollment.

Comments on Small Majors in Large Departments
Ecological Management and Restoration - This major needs more faculty and internships to expand.

Environmental Horticulture and Urban Forestry – This is a small major with a strong cohort of students. In light of the anticipation of potential faculty retirees, this program will need faculty in order to maintain the major.

Plant Sciences – The strength in this major is that students are happy and getting jobs. Its weakness is that it requires 15 more units than the average campus major, thus the time to degree is longer.

Reports from FEC Administrative Officers and the Dean’s Update
Executive Council – An Executive Council meeting has not yet been held for the 2015-16 year.

CA&ES department chairs meeting – Campus (and departments) are looking closely at their programs in an effort to follow the initiative instigated by Governor Brown and UC President Napolitano to streamline student completions for 4-year degrees.

Faculty salary equity – Faculty salaries on the Davis campus are being evaluated. Provost Hexter announced details of an equity salary adjustment to address salary concerns. Specific details may be found in his September 30, 2015 letter to UC Davis ladder rank faculty.

Academic Strategic Planning Committee – This ad hoc committee charged by the dean to address academic strategic planning is meeting weekly through the end of fall, with a final report expected for the dean.

Campus campaign – The campus development office is preparing a new campaign that is currently in a silent phase. The office is soliciting for big or transformational interdisciplinary ideas from faculty to use in the campaign.

Brenda Nakamoto