College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Faculty Executive Committee
Friday, January 29, 2016, 2:00pm-3:00pm
Minutes

Present – Patrick Brown, Zhe Chen, Mary Delany, Helene Dillard, Sue Ebeler, Deborah Golino, Linda Harris, Kalen Kasraie, Emilio Laca, Ed Lewis, David Mills, Toby O’Geen, Alison Van Eenennaam and Huaijun Zhou

Absent – Adam Contreras, Alan Hastings, Ben Houlton and Ermias Kebreab

Guest – Francene Steinberg

Co-vice chair Dave Mills opened the meeting of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC). Chair Alan Hastings was out-of-town and could not attend.

Consent Items
A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dean’s Update
Hiring Incentive Program – Proposals under the Hiring Incentive Program are being submitted by faculty to the Provost’s Office. The dean encouraged faculty to work with her office to get their letters of support and any needed help to make a stronger proposal.

Undergraduate Admissions - The dean and associate dean Sue Ebeler will be meeting with Undergraduate Admissions to plan how the college will handle its share of the projected increase in undergraduate enrollment this fall. There is concern about the large majors in the college and challenges of handling additional students in classes already at 100% capacity. Similarly, labs are operating at maximum enrollments. Immediate remedies such as acquiring additional space or buildings are in the plans; however, they will not be available or built soon enough to accommodate the additional students projected for this fall. The dean hopes to have some control in directing which majors will gain more students so as to avert over-enrollment problems. Sue Ebeler provided additional details

Presentation by Sue Ebeler
The projections for increased student enrollment are directives from the chancellor, as well as Governor Brown and UC President Napolitano from the outcome of their budget discussions. Challenges exist. Large and medium-sized lecture halls are utilized at capacity. Labs, in particular, are of concern because of limited space and times of availability in the schedule. Offering courses and labs in the early mornings or late evenings or weekends has been discussed, but for obvious reasons are not optimal solutions.

Systemwide enrollments of transfer students are also expected to rise, increasing the ratio of freshmen to transfer student to 2:1. Of the 5,000 additional students that UC will accept for fall 2016, 350 of these students are to go to UC Davis, with a targeted 25% to go to the CA&ES.
Sue encouraged the FEC to raise their voices to administration, and to ask that short-term and long-term plans be made to accommodate the increased numbers of students to teach.

**Executive Council** – Emilio Laca attended two Executive Council meetings and reported briefly. He said he would email his notes to the FEC members.

Retirement Options Task Force – There was discussion about the changes to the retirement system to be implemented in 2016. There was concern that mid-career faculty under the new system may be affected adversely, in both the aspects of new-hires and retention, because of fewer incentives in the retirement benefits. It is hoped that to offset the decreased appeal of retirement incentives that faculty salary rates be adjusted to compensate appropriately.

**New Business**

**Committee on Committees assignment** – Dave Mills asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee on Committees (C of C). The work entails assigning standing committee membership rosters for the 2016-17 year. The names of volunteers are being assembled into lists, and the C of C will need to meet and identify the volunteers. Members who agreed to serve included –

Patrick Brown, chair
Zhe Chen
Huaijun Zhou

**Academic and Strategic Planning Committee** – Francene Steinberg, co-chair of the CA&ES Academic and Strategic Planning (ASP) committee gave a presentation on the ASP report. The ASP committee met during fall quarter. Members were charged by the dean to articulate inclusive and innovative strengths for the college, ideas that could be used as talking points for the dean with campus administration and stakeholders. Francene said the committee chose not to “reinvent the wheel” and duplicate the work already done by other committees. Instead, it chose to use information gathered by earlier committees (such as the College Visioning Committee) and to work as a group and subgroups to further identify college core priority themes and subthemes. By doing so, the committee also identified interrelated and potential crosscutting themes.

FEC members discussed the ASP report and commented on how it accurately touched on the areas of strength in the college. It was said that it was a useful document, one that inspired insight into how strengths can be further instilled in teaching students so as to give them the skillset to succeed. Francene said the report was intended to be the instigator for further discussion and was not intended to be all-inclusive. The dean added that she did plan to offer more opportunities for faculty discussion on this topic to build further conversations and ideas.

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Mills.

Brenda Nakamoto