

MEETING NOTES

IANR Liaison Committee

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

10:00am-Noon

Nebraska East Union, Bluestem Room

Via phone: Bob Wilson

Excused: Gary Zoubek

In Attendance: Jiri Adamec, Julie Albrecht, Leslie Crandall, Angela Pannier, Ellen Pappozzi

Town Hall Meetings

- Three meetings were scheduled in response to the auxiliary account question posed at the last Liaison Committee meeting. 2 separate items will be addressed at this forum: 1) auxiliary account overhead assessment and 2) the recently appointed IANR State-Wide Campus Resource Optimization Task Force. This task force will assess IANR's physical assets and the way they are managed, district structures, reporting, land assets, research centers, physical campus, and more. They will look for opportunities to better optimize these resources. The goal is to end up with more resources than we have today, that are better deployed. The task force will start in March. Dr. Green will explain and introduce the members of the task forces and explain their charge at the town hall meetings.
- Liaison Committees' function for these meetings is to be there and help facilitate questions and manage the room. There will be a live stream of the conversations. The quick roll out of these meetings is due to the questions IANR has received about the overhead.
- Ellen brought up lab fees in relation to the overhead discussion. Dr. Green will answer these questions and more at the town hall meetings. Julie asked about the designation of the overhead funds. Dr. Green said they will go back to central administration, to support functions that are not being supported today. Business center staff, needs for growing campus, building projects, etc.

Organizational Structure of IANR

- Ellen shared that the organizational structure of IANR is troubling to some faculty, highlighted by the recent searches for a new assistant dean in ARD and associate dean in CED. There seem to be many administrators, assistants, associates, etc. There is concern about where the money is coming from and what these positions are doing. Dr. Green shared that there are slightly fewer administrators at IANR than when he arrived. Part of his IANR to 2025 initiative involved concerns about bureaucracy. He also did not initially understand the number of "heads" in Ag Hall. He did not realize that some of the associate deans are part time administrators. For example, in CASNR there is a total of 1 FTE in associate deans, even though that is made up of partial appointments of three people. Extension has 3 - 2 Program leaders and the new associate (which was a replacement of Beth Birnstihl from her retirement in 2012). ARD has two associate deans and is recruiting an assistant dean (which is the replacement for Dan Duncan from when he left in 2012 to become Nebraska Innovation Campus director). Angie/Ellen shared that many of the faculty have questions about the responsibilities of the ARD Deans/Assoc/Assistant. Do we need Deans or can we have administrative people in these functions? From a faculty perspective, it seems that the number of administrators is large. Should the image be leaner and meaner, or can we explain what each position is doing? Dr.

Green compared IANR to 3 other schools (University of Florida, Texas A&M, University of Tennessee). In Nebraska, IANR was designated in the early 1970s with the structure that we have today to increase the importance of agricultural research, education, and extension at the University of Nebraska. The structure (VC and 4 Deans) is dictated by the legislation. ARD has a higher legislative load with reporting. Ellen shared that the issue may be the portrayal not the actual amount of positions. Dr. Green said that when comparing to other institutions, IANR ultimately has the same structure just different titles. This is one of the charge areas to be evaluated by the IANR State-Wide Campus Resource Optimization Task Force in their upcoming work.

Brief Discussion on Budget Shortfall

- Dr. Green shared that the budget shortfall is not expected to be a major issue and that the Chancellor will soon be relaying to the campus process the plans for dealing with the issue.

IANR Roads Scholar Tour

- The planning is running smoothly. Winery at St. Paul is set. Murd will update Leslie on how registration is going. Liaison members who want to go need to register. Leslie will find location to drop off/pick up in Grand Island if needed.

International Affairs

- Angie asked Dr. Green if he was aware of some issues which have arisen for international faculty. Dr. Green is aware and indicated that this is a major issue that needs to be resolved moving forward, particularly given the relatively large number of our recently hired new faculty who will be coming in with similar challenges. It seems the local UNL international office is not effectively doing their job, and in a recent case resulted in a new faculty member having to return to their home country (hopefully temporarily until VISA issues are resolved). The U.S. State Department is the other issue – slow in taking care of visas, etc., yet is largely beyond of our control. AVC Yoder has been asked to give a full detailed synopsis of the case to allow Dr. Green to seek correction in our international affairs support at UNL.

President Update

- The committee asked for an update on the NU President status. Dr. Green shared that it appears President Milliken will be here until around April 1. The Board of Regents is vetting search firms. They meet on Friday to discuss. They anticipate naming an interim sometime in March. Dr. Green is very optimistic about an exceptional president to result from the coming search process, yet would have preferred to not lose President Milliken.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Recorder: Zaneta Hahn

Distributed electronically to the IANR Liaison Committee for review: 2/24/2014

Distributed electronically to the IANR Faculty: 2/28/2014

Upcoming Meetings:

Mon, March 17, 2:00-4:00pm (Dr. Green joins at 3:00pm)

Agenda Items: MAS program discussion, Nominating committee appointments?

(John Markwell/Dan Cotton to join at 2:00pm)

Thurs, April 17, 10:00am-Noon (Dr. Green joins at 11:00am)