Liaison Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, November 25, 2013
3:00-5:00pm
Nebraska East Union, Bluestem Room

Attendance: Julie Albrecht, Gary Zoubek, Jiri Adamec
Via phone: Bob Wilson, Leslie Crandall
Excused: Ellen Paparozzi, Angela Pannier

Roads Scholar Tour Discussion

- Questions: Should we involve faculty from departments outside of IANR? This will raise the number of seats. Do we offer 2 or 1 bus? Hotels, tours may be limited if 2 buses are allowed. The committee feels 1 bus is optimal. VC Green mentioned that if a high percentage of the new faculty go on the tour this could really raise the number. We might be limiting the number who can attend by having only 1 bus. With all of the searches rolled together the number may be 50-60. 40 on 1 bus probably may be limiting. Jiri noted if there is a demand, we could do a tour next year. VC Green agreed that logically is 1 bus is better. Put the word out early enough that people have the opportunity to get a seat. When seats are gone, they are gone (1st come 1st serve). Then we can do another tour next year if there is a remaining demand.
- Points from the 2012 Survey: WCREC Lab at Brule can be removed. People can get an idea of the lab at WCREC headquarters without actually going. Western Sugar will not be a stop again since it is not processing at the time. Consider Kelly Bean instead. Adams Land and Cattle was well liked. We will try to get in there again. VC Green suggested that Jill Brown can set that one up. Gudmunsen Sandhills Lab is unique and high on the list. There is a new IANR exhibit at Lake McConaughhey which could be included on water and agriculture. Cedar Point is below it, a biology station operated by the School of Biological Sciences. That could be worked in as well.
- The committee agreed to start promoting after the first of the year. VC Green can mention at the next All Hands Meeting in late January.
- The stop in Kearney for the dinner on the way home should be changed (everyone was really tired). Is there another suggestion to handle dinner on that night? VC Green suggested picking up a boxed dinner in Broken Bow to eat on the bus. You could do a program on the bus (recruitment or whatever). This way you could get back earlier. Or stop in Grand Island and put boxed dinners on the bus there.

Website Discussion

- Jiri will receive all of the suggestions and comments. He is now set up. The usage does not seem to be great. Zaneta will send the notes out via a link to the website to help. VC Green will put the Liaison website on the next IANR Leadership Council meeting agenda for December to ask the department heads to possibly send out a notice to their faculty.

Liaison Committee Purpose

- How can they help the VC more? Is VC Green satisfied with them? This has been an ongoing question. It is nice to have the committee for situations that may arise. There hasn’t been much of a need recently, but you never know when it may be needed. There may be things coming down the road where the Liaison committee may be very valuable. There is nothing now that needs to be done that the committee is not doing.
**Extension/Research Integration**

- Extension 100 year anniversary. The committee asked for VC Green’s thoughts on Fall Conference. Gary was not there but heard a lot of positive things. VC Green was there as the keynote speaker over the noon hour. Dean Hibberd is using the 100 year anniversary as a platform to talk about the future of UNL Extension. It has all been positive from what VC Green can tell. One of the objectives given to Dean Hibberd by the VC was that Extension and ARD need to figure out how to better link their missions. Julie noted that there may need to be some education and skill development. This works both ways. Research faculty need to be better integrated with extension and visa versa. The Committee also asked about IANR’s role in the 100th Anniversary of Cooperative Extension. There has been national planning for promotion of the anniversary and Dean Hibberd has been involved and a series of 100 meetings have been planned for 2014 across Nebraska.

**Phase II Hiring**

- The Committee raised the question about how funding will be available for the second phase of the faculty growth initiative in IANR. VC Green explained that we hope to be done with Phase I hiring by the end of spring semester 2014. Phase II funding availability is being looked into now. The model for Phase I and into Phase II was based on anticipated retirement/attrition and continued academic and research funding growth. We expect to begin prioritizing the Phase II positions in FY15 with a target for an additional 20 faculty lines. This will be a combination of open lines and some new lines. We think we are on target to start this process next summer. Calendar year 2015 would be when the hiring process would begin. Where the money comes from is a combination of open lines and growth in enrollment. The 36 phase I positions were from growth in enrollment, overhead, Foundation funds, and farm operations net income. We have been tracking where we are at to what we projected. So far so good. Julie asked if some of the funding come from the VSIP lines. VC Green said there were 17.25 FTE from VSIP. We hired from these before we started the new hire initiative.

- There is concern for those with joint appointments or that have been hired and can choose their department. VC Green relayed that very few have joint appointments. We have already successfully had many promotion and tenure cases with split appointments. There have only been a couple of challenging cases where there were extenuating circumstances. There was a past hire that was a surprise to many of the faculty due to the opportunity for a recruitment to end up in one of several departments. In this case, the faculty in the department that the successful candidate chose were not engaged in the hiring process. Keep this in mind for the future in order to present these hires to the departments in a better manner.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.
Recorder: Zaneta Hahn

Distributed electronically to the IANR Liaison Committee for review: Dec 9, 2013
Distributed electronically to the IANR Faculty: Dec 17, 2013

**Spring 2013 Semester Meetings:**
- January 17, 10:00am-Noon (VC Green joins at 11:00am)
- February 18, 10:00am-Noon (VC Green joins at 11:00am)
- March 17, 2:00-4:00pm (VC Green joins at 3:00pm)
- April 17, 10:00am-Noon (VC Green joins at 11:00am)