

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Faculty Association Executive Committee
Minutes of 22 April 1998 Meeting

PRESENT: J. E. Marcy, D. E. Eversole, D. W. Reaves, A. Swiger, S. Duncan, G. Hetzel, K. K. Hatzios, P. J. Kennelly, and D. Adams [Southern States]

President Marcy called the meeting to order at 11:05. New officers, CALSFA Secretary / Treasurer Dixie Reaves and Senator Susan Duncan, were welcomed.

The upcoming Celebration of the Faculty was discussed. The tentative program was reviewed, and all were urged to contact Betty Greene if errors or omissions were encountered. Dean Swiger reported that responses to date were down from prior years.

Kriton Hatzios reported on the election of new officers for the CALS governance system. Eighty one persons, an estimated 30% of the faculty, responded. Measures for generating more active participation in all aspects of governance were discussed, such as advertising for nominations at an earlier date.

Dean Swiger reported on plans for the Celebration of the Faculty, including measures to make its focus more inclusive. He also described measures for enhancing the role of CALSFA in planning. He next reported that it appears likely the governor will sign a budget that will include the level of funding for the Plan to Serve Virginia recommended by the legislative conference committee. All funding increases, he reported, will be distributed among the affected colleges in proportion to the cuts endured during past budget reductions. This translates into roughly three quarters of the funds appropriated going to CALS, where they will be used to hire five additional faculty, eight extension agents, and ten staff. He noted that utilization of these funds for new hires has been complicated by a provision that two-thirds of the personnel service outlying areas of the state. While this does not preclude hiring persons based on the main campus, this provision does complicate the task of using the new positions to meet the many need areas within the college. Dean Swiger next reported that while the college presidents were working vigorously to reverse the governor's proposed reduction in faculty raises, the prospects for success remain uncertain. With regard to hiring replacements for present faculty, Dean Swiger noted that the burden of relieving the college's approximately \$230,000 debt in 208 funds remains a problem. By delaying replacement hirings to generate savings in the 208 budget, it is anticipated that approximately \$50,000 will be made available during the next year for debt relief. Dean Swiger summarized his report to the provost describing the

marked increase in the number of students taught and advised by the college during this decade. While 208 FTE levels have declined slightly and GTA levels have fallen dramatically, the number of students CALS directly serves has risen from about 750 to over 2000. This number includes the approximately one-half of Biochemistry majors who matriculate through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences as well as the numerous students taught and advised by CALS faculty through the Biological Sciences Initiative. Dean Swiger noted with concern that while these figures reflect vigorous and active support of the BSI by CASL, funds to support these additional responsibilities have not been forthcoming to the participating colleges as intended in the original BSI plan. He speculated that lack of tangible support eventually may lead to the erosion of the level of participation in and enthusiasm for this initiative.

Kriton Hatzios reported that the CALS Council has reviewed the report of the ad hoc committee on governance and endorsed virtually all of its recommendations. As a consequence, the incoming President of CALSFA [Leon Geyer], is charged with responsibility for item 9 of the plan, to "consider whether the commission on A & P Faculty could be subsumed by the Commission on Extension Program Policy". It was further recommended by Joe Marcy that as part of the continuing efforts to make the governance system more active, the CALSFA President should survey all commission chairs to determine whether staffing sizes for each unit are appropriate.

Discussion ensued as to the best manner for insuring continuity in the continued efforts of the CALS Faculty Affairs Commission to secure tuition remission for faculty and staff. It was concluded that sufficient continuity in membership existed on the commission to ensure that these efforts will be continued during the next year.

Commission reports were then received. Dixie Reaves reported that the last Commission on Academic Programs had been canceled for lack of agenda items. Glen Hetzel reported that the Commission on Extension Affairs also had not met. Dan Eversole distributed the minutes of the last meeting of the Commission on Faculty Affairs.

Peter Kennelly delivered the Treasurer's report indicating that approximately \$60 in additional dues had been received for CALSFA members during spring semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

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