**­­College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Faculty Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**8/14/2018**

**9:00 am in 104F Hutcheson**

Call in information: 1-866-842-5779 Code: 5402314152

Attendance- Catherine Larochelle, Rob Grange, Ryan Stewart, Jennifer Jones, Alan Grant

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approval of previous minutes (May 2018)-approved unanimously**
3. **Dean’s Update**

CALS has around 570 new freshman starting this semester, slightly above the target of 543. Returning student numbers are slightly down, so overall the college is on target for numbers. Approximately 125 new transfers are arriving, along with ~70 Ag Tech students. Overall, the university has fewer incoming freshman compared to last year, but the overall trend is still going up.

The open search for a new Provost is starting this fall. Dean Grant will serve on the search committee, which is being assisted by a recruiting firm.

The college has several transitions that have been announced. Mary Christian is retiring at the end of August, and Stephanie Brown will be the new HR Director for the college. University HR has a pilot organizational structure, in which the CALS HR Director will report to both CALS and University HR (designed to facilitate the flow of information between units). Rick Rudd of ALCE will be stepping down as department head, and a national search for his replacement is underway. Mary Leigh Wolfe of BSE has also stepped down as department head, and Bobby Grisso is acting as interim department head. A search is currently underway to fill the position of associate director of Virginia Cooperative Extension. Mike Evans has started his position as Director of the new School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, which on July 1, 2018 officially became a unit.

The college is working with the interim provost to finalize the faculty hiring plan. The exact number of new positions is not yet known, as it will depend somewhat on possible Destination Area positions.

Effective September 10th, a merit-based salary increase (2% average) will begin for faculty and university staff. Classified staff will not be included in this salary increase, but the state budget includes a classified staff raise next year.

The University is now working on partial, PIBB-informed budget, in which 68% of the PIBB budget that is made up of student-related metrics is in place. The remaining 32% of the PIBB budget, which incorporates faculty and student successes and effectiveness, is not yet finalized.

A brief discussion about the use of SPOT scores in teaching evaluations commenced. There was general agreement that SPOT scores were not originally intended for evaluation and are not a good fit for that purpose. It may be possible to raise this issue with Faculty Senate representatives.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

We requested, received, and paid the invoice to Hethwood Market for the Fall 2017 Tailgating event. We also contributed $500 towards the 2018 CALS summer picnic.

Six departments (AAEC, HNFE, ENT, APS, FST, and ALCE) have transferred funds.

1. **Old business**
   1. Review and approval of the bylaws.
      1. The CALSFA executive committee voted to approve all changes to bylaws that had been proposed prior to the meeting. 5 votes were in favor (3 in person; 2 electronically).
   2. CALSFA yearly events calendar – Robert Grange will put together a calendar for CALSFA officer use; Jennifer Jones has a template we can use.
   3. CALS picnic – We voted unanimously to continue supporting the CALS picnic in 2019. We will work on ways to increase visibility of CALSFA during the event without impending on the important role that CALSSA has in the event.
2. **New business**
   1. Early fall social event – We will try to have a social event this fall, tentatively scheduled for Friday September 21st, 2018, from 4-6 pm. We discussed venues, and Jennifer will contact several to inquire about logistics.
   2. Fall professional event – CALSFA will present at the CALS new faculty orientation, scheduled for Tuesday September 18th, 2018.
3. **Adjourn at 10:05 am**
   1. Next meeting on September 11, 2018 at 8:30 am.