

CALS Governance Council Minutes
September 27, 2016
311 Latham Hall

Dr. Grant called the meeting to order at 11:00 am with a welcome to everyone.

Council members present: Alan Grant, Susan Sumner, Mike Lambur, Stephen Kleiber, Neal Vines, Isaac Magana, Inga Haugen, Sandra Gabbert, Ben Tracy, Bobby Grisso, Thea Glidden, Mary Christian, Saied Mostaghimi, Erik Ervin, Dan Goerlich, Brian Benham, Jamie Lucero and Stephanie Slocum

Council members participating via phone: Maria Balota, David Langston, Teresa Vaughn, Jon Vest and Margaret Kenny

Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made by Mike Lambur to adopt the agenda; seconded by Saied Mostaghimi; approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Erik Ervin made a motion to approve; seconded by Ben Tracy; approved.

New Business: None

Committee Reports:

Committee on Academic Program Policy:

Mike Denbow was not present; however, Dr. Susan Sumner informed the group that the committee had not met yet.

CALS Curriculum Committee:

Ben Tracy reported the committee has met once and approved 2 courses, approved the proposal for the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, approved the addition of a Masters of Sciences and Life Sciences as a Horticulture concentration and approved a new minor in Health and Wellness.

Committee on Extension and Research Program Policy:

Mike Lambur reported the committee hasn't met yet and has no agenda items.

Committee on International Program Policy:

James Anderson was not present; however Erik Ervin offered a report. He began by mentioning the appointment of Dr. Tom Thompson as the associate dean and director of international programs.

The Global Education Fair was held last week on the Drillfield. The committee had a table that was well visited.

Two new MOUs and student exchange agreements have recently been signed. One is with Memorial University in Canada and one is with Toulouse University of France. To date, one student is planning to spend an entire semester at Toulouse University.

CALS Diversity Council:

Isaac Magana reported that the council is hosting 2 speakers (Karen Washington, a food justice advocate and Jeff Myers, who will speak on the topic of working with your LGBT colleagues) during the month of October.

The council is hosting the CALS Diversity Showcase on October 5th and is looking for presenters.

Isaac shared that members of the council will volunteer at a fundraiser for Christiansburg Institute on October 22. The Christiansburg Institute was a school that served the educational needs of African Americans from 15 surrounding counties from 1866 until desegregation in the 1960's.

Isaac concluded by sharing part of a thank you letter from Marquelle Benn who was the recipient of the Randolph L. Grayson Scholarship awarded by CALS Diversity Council.

CALS Library Update:

Inga Haugen reported that Dean Grant recently visited the Libraries for an information tour. She offered for those interested in a tour of the new library spaces and services to contact her. A new data services specialist John Petters has been hired and Inga will be working with him to reopen the CALS Data Pilot Project which will allow better coverage of CALS.

Inga is working on preparing Preferred Practices guidelines on how best to access the library services (so she can avoid future instances of being contacted by each individual of an entire class)

Dean Grant took a moment to offer positive feedback from his visit. He was very impressed by the activity he saw in the library.

Updates from Dean and Associate Deans:

Academic Programs

Susan Sumner shared that the semester has started off well. The new classroom building came online. Susan encouraged people to check it out. 1567 in Litton is being renovated and will hold about 20 students. They are also working with FST to renovate a space for students. There have been issues with university assignments with classrooms, so Susan has been working with the Registrar to help resolve.

Fall semester census is finished-there are 550 in the freshman class; 147 transfer students and 57 Ag Tech 2-year students.

Undergraduate research and undergraduate teaching assistant numbers are growing so they are looking at new policies. Susan has asked CAPP to review our college's policy. Susan gave a timeline of the review process for the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. The goal of the SPES is to go before the Board of Visitors in the March meeting.

The new faculty orientation will be held 9/28 and there will be 8 participants.

Research

Dr. Mostaghimi reported that the university experienced a decline in research awards and expenditure. CALS Research experienced a decline in awards but set a new record in expenditure with a 5% increase. There was a decline in graduate school enrollment by 40 students. The enrollment is 580. Saied attributes part of this decline to last year's large graduating class of 111. Doing benchmarking with peers from other institutions to see where we stand.

The annual AREC meeting for Directors/ Superintendents, Administrative Assistants and Farm Managers is scheduled for November 9th and 10th in Blacksburg.

There is a Kentland Field Day on October 12th with a focus on precision farming.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Dr. Jones wasn't present however; Bobby Grisso mentioned that state fair is this week. District conferences are being held during the week of Oct 17-21. New agent orientation is happening this week and there will be 13 participating.

CALS

Dean Grant mentioned Dr. Thompson's appointment to associate dean and director of international programs again and thanked everyone who was involved in the selection process. He also mentioned that he will be meeting with the Department of Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences to discuss plans for the transition to an interim department head.

State revenue isn't sufficient to cover raises but the university is planning on offering 2% pool for merit raises for University staff and faculty. There is no plan for raises for the classified staff. Mary Christian added that the staff must have approved plans by Oct 15. November 10th is when increases are expected to take effect.

Dean Grant encouraged everyone to attend President Sands' state of the university address on Friday at the Moss Center.

Alumni

Jamie Cowell-Lucero shared that the scholarship banquet will be on November 3th.

A motion was made to adjourn and was seconded; approved to adjourn the meeting.

Stephanie Slocum, Recorder