

Agricultural Faculty Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2016  
Deans of Agriculture Auditorium  
Attendance – 55  
Presiding – Dean Jay Akridge

### **Call to Order**

Dean Akridge called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was introduced by John Graveel to approve the agenda and seconded by J. Scott Radcliffe to approve as is. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Memorial Resolutions**

The following memorial resolution was presented

- i. Corinne E. N. Alexander by Kenneth Foster

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of this emeritus member of the faculty. A copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.

### **Consent Agenda**

Dean Akridge noted that consent agenda items were distributed prior to the meeting.

A request was made that item XXI—Part A, II: Proposal to Alter the College Written and Oral Communication Requirement be removed from the consent agenda.

A request was made that item XXI—Part A, I: Proposal to Alter College Mathematics Requirement be removed from the consent agenda.

Lee Schweitzer moved to approve all other items on the consent agenda. Mike Dana seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

### **Proposal to Alter the College Written and Oral Communication Requirement was opened for discussion.**

Dean Akridge asked Scott Radcliffe for comments.

Scott—CSRC looked at 10 credit requirement for Written and Oral Communication. Scott discussed the different options especially those with transfer or dual credit because they bring 3 credits of English to Purdue rather than 4 credits equivalent to ENGL 10600. Trying to streamline the process—reduce the Written and Oral Communication requirement from 10 to 9 credits.

Colleen Brady—I am from Agricultural Communications; based on employer feedback students need more written and oral skills. In fact YDAE has created a course to help students make up

this one credit as well as really help students with their communication skills. Think our students need more writing.

Scott—I think CSRC as a whole does not want to diminish the amount of Written and Oral Communication of requirement. CSRC had trouble determining if this one credit course from YDAE would be open to all, how many sections, when offered, capacity, and other concerns that do not outweigh the concern.

Mark Russell—I believe this lessens the preparation of our students.

Gerald Shively—do we know how many students this impacts.

Marcos Fernandez—13% of our students are transfer.

Terry Stewart—also students who have dual credit. However, if they do not like the requirement they have the ability to take ENGL 10800.

Allan Talbert—I would hate to not give students the opportunity to take/require a course that would help their writing skills.

Mike Dana—if look at the requirement from advising—we need to look at other factors because the objections being made are not what would be addressed by leaving at 10 credits.

Mike Saunders—I do not think leaving at 10 solves our problem. In fact if want to make an impact we should require 12 credits.

Marcos Fernandez—just learned today that there is a proposal to change ENGL 10600 to (3) credits.

Jon Neal—Would we still exempt students from one credit if complete 10800? Only need 119 to graduate.

Terry Stewart—No, the document states that that exemption will no longer be impacted.

Motion to accept the proposal of changing the College of Agriculture Core to 9 credits of Written and Oral Communication was made by Colleen Brady. It was seconded by Mike Dana. The motion was passed 41 to 10.

*Proposal to Alter College Mathematics Requirement was opened for discussion.*

Andrew Mesecar—We voted unanimously in BCHM that this should not be accepted.

Ken Foster—Lowering standards is an unwise move. Calculus has value beyond the rigor.

David Barbarash—That argument does not work for me. Do not see how this one course impacts the overall bearing of success of the College. I believe we know what is best for our students at the departmental level. The calculus course presented at Purdue does not fit our need. I believe the MA 15800, while not perfect does a better job of fitting the needs of HLA students.

Scott Radcliffe—Our department has a grasp of what our students in ANSC need, but not what other departments need. Our department thought it best to left up to the discipline.

Joe Anderson—Agronomy thought about calculus in our majors and how it applies. We felt that in one major—Agronomy—that MA 15800 will fit the needs of our students in that major. We did not do carte blanche and left other majors at 16010.

Clint Chapple—this argument that we know what is best for our students—since going to get a Bachelor of Science—if not every department is as rigorous then we are doing a disservice for our students. If going to put the A in STEM and make it STEAM---need to have a rigorous education in math. Doing a disservice. Even impacts the mental training of our students.

Allan Talbert—YDAE was the other department that proposed a change. Ag Ed and Ag Com is an area where calculus is required for graduate school. Also, the proposal does not give carte blanche to the college and departments. They still have to go through CSRC and Ag faculty. Also, MA 15800 is a rigorous course. I do not think this devalues the rigor of our curriculum.

Clint Chapple—If MA 15800 is so rigorous how come it is not accepted by the College of Science.

Allan Talbert—I did not mean to imply that MA 15800 is as rigorous as MA 16010, 16100, or 16500.

Scott Radcliffe—This still does not change that MA 15910 is no longer taught and that a change must be made to certain plans of study. I fully understand your argument about maintaining rigor. I think an argument can be made that the right course is not currently being offered.

Joe Anderson—To address Clint’s concern about our perception to the outside world. I went to our stakeholders—how are we doing? They said doing good, better best at the quantitative aspect and training for our students we doing very very good. Want to see more team building skills.

Jeff Volenec—I would like to add that in AGRY many of us thought that calculus should be required. However in a democratic fashion we voted to allow for a change. We also thought that AGECE might make a change. There was support among many of faculty for calculus. Thus while AGRY has some support for the change it was not unanimous.

Terry Stewart—I am happy to listen to what other departments are doing. What will be the transferability for students? I suggest that we table this motion and have every department document their intent. I do think that calculus causes students to think differently.

Scott Radcliffe—3 departments who proposed to make changes—YDAE, HLA, and AGRY. They put proposals and reasoning for the change. I think we need that flexibility to let those departments determine what they need to meet their needs.

David Barbarash—I would like to clarify the motion on the table. The requirement as written is still to require calculus. We are asking for an exception at the departmental level, not at the College.

Colleen Brady—I hear that many of you mentioned to looking at peer programs/institutions and saying whether or not calculus is or is not required.

Hazel Wetzstein—I think the area of diminishing hours I think we need to consider rigor and relevance. This proposal does not prohibit departments from requiring calculus or something higher, but it does give other departments to evaluate their needs.

Mike Saunders—In FNR we will probably continue to use calculus, but we thought best to leave to individual academic units.

Lee Schweitzer—I concur. Every student is unique. We want to give them the best possible education for the path they have chosen. I am speaking in favor of the proposal and looking out for the student.

Scott Radcliffe—MA 16010 or above is the accepted requirement of the College. This proposal will allow departments to propose changes.

Dennis Buckmaster—point of clarification. For Landscape Architecture—there is already a difference in the degree it is BS in LA.

John Graveel made a motion to accept the proposal of accepting the alterations to the College of Agriculture Mathematics requirement. It was seconded by Kola Ajuwon. The motion was passed 42 to 10.

### **Update on Undergraduate Education in the College of Agriculture – Marcos Fernandez**

I want to help the College understand the breadth and depth of the Office of Academic Programs.

Enrollments are healthy. Hopefully the number of admits, admits, and accepts will increase for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Tracie, Amy, Anneliese, Myron really working hard. Recruiting is 12 months a year. Will have 40 students in Honors—Chris Oseto, John Graveel and others have impacted honors. I would ask the faculty to take a moment when see a prospective student.

13% of students are Transfer. We have Anneliese Kay and have developed a strong connection with Vincennes, Ivy Tech, and Ancilla College. Have a strong Pathway to Purdue program—about 35 students (half of which will eventually transfer to Purdue). Anneliese also working with Advanced Credit by Examination—we have done away with Dual Credit. Students no longer limited to a HS with an Ag program and an Ag teacher. As long as IN residents can take this course and can take an exam. The exam is no cost to them. If they pass the exam they will get Purdue credit that will be transcribed.

Tim Kerr works with advising and CSCR—all of your departments. Tim and Dennis are looking at advising in the College.

Dennis Buckmaster is looking at Teaching and Advising. He has held many Brown Bags. He has helped with nomination and recognition of awards. We have had

CATE—College of Ag Transformational Experiences—looking at interactions that happen outside the classroom. You may not realize that there are monies out there for these experiences. LDCP got revamped. Issues 360 is strong.

Plant Sciences is moving forward—Amy Jones is working hard and doing a wonderful job.

Scholarships—as students progress they apply less and less for scholarships (juniors less than sophomores, seniors less than juniors.) Career Fair—2<sup>nd</sup> largest career fair in the nation. So big that we will move to Rec Sports Center for Fall 2016.

Thank you for all you do. I encourage you to look at those slides.

Jay Akridge—thanks to Marcos and thanks to Dennis Buckmaster.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

### **1. Agenda and Policy Committee – Kolapo Ajuwon**

Began year with update on Promotion and Tenure especially changes in the policy. Followed that with AgIT update from Pat Smoker, and ended Fall 2015 with recent changes to IP procedures at Purdue. Started in January with update from Marcos's Fernandez office on recruiting from Tracie Egger. Feb had update on small scale agriculture and the student farm. Then last month we had update on COA fundraising and development efforts from Eric Putman.

### **2. Area Promotions – Jay Akridge**

Working on international guidelines and scholarship. Also, Barbara Golden is working on mentoring guidelines in response to changes at University level. The College has groups dedicated to Research, Teaching, and Extension. We want to have proposals ready for the fall that can go out to the Faculty.

### **3. Curriculum and Student Relations Committee – J. Scott Radcliffe**

The biggest issues other than what have already heard are around the changes to Registrar deadlines for curriculum revisions. May need to move Agricultural Faculty meetings to accommodate these changes.

### **4. Grade Appeals – Marcos Fernandez**

No appeals made. No new information to report.

## **University Senate Report – Paul Ebner**

- 1) Purdue can now note on transcript disciplinary expulsion
- 2) Senate called upon leaders to use their voice to recognize hateful language and actions.
- 3) Recommendation to raise wages for student workers.
- 4) Recommendation for Board of Trustees to make decisions when University Senate is in session.
- 5) Many good presentations---e.g. new COACHE survey. Also a new Forecast app—look at student registration habits, who eat with, when going to class.

## **Dean's Report – Jay Akridge**

Will be brief due to our time. Another Great Year and say thanks. Some of things we accomplished...wrapped up Strategic Plan; ANSC Building in the works; Phenotyping Building, Quintin Nannet Outstanding Senior Male; Clean Sweep of Butler Leadership Awards.

2300 attended Fish Fry with Bob Knight and Gene Keady. Again thank you for another outstanding year.

Next year will be busy with faculty. 31 positions for next year.

Karen Plaut leading the Next Big Idea!

Biennium budget coming next year. We have a donor who put \$10 million on the table. Will be out looking for matching funds. Facilities always looking for updates.

Thanks again for another great year.

Dean Akridge's presentation is included in the document that is appended to these minutes.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

The 2016 Fall Semester Agricultural Faculty meeting is scheduled for 3:30 PM on Thursday, December 1 in the Deans of Agriculture Auditorium in Pfendler Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy P. Kerr  
Secretary, Agricultural Faculty