College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Executive Committee
Friday, January 6, 2012, 1:10 pm – 3:00 pm
Minutes

Present –, Chris Calvert, Mary Delany, Susan Handy, Jan Hopmans, Mark Lubell, Jim MacDonald, Dan Putnam, Judith Stern, Ken Tate, Diane Ullman, Neal Van Alfen, Jeffrey Williams and John Yoder

Absent – Trish Berger, Jessica Dam, James Hildreth, Irtqa Ilyas, Karen Klonsky, Martina Newell-McGloughlin and Kevin Rice

Report from Chris Calvert -

Chair Chris Calvert opened the meeting of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Executive Committee (EC). John Yoder moved to approve the consent calendar that contained one item: minutes, December 2, 2011. Jeffrey Williams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chris Calvert noted there are several items of discussion at the Academic Senate level that the faculty should be aware of: a vote for confidence or no confidence and the use of police force.

Both Chris Calvert and Diane Ullman reported that they met with Pat Turner, the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, prior to winter break, to discuss course restrictions (a topic discussed at the previous EC meeting) that affect CA&ES undergraduate students, specifically the restrictions on Chemistry and upper division writing. Diane learned that Pass I restrictions on upper division students wishing to enroll in chemistry classes are due to insufficient seating. Chemistry does not have enrollment capacity to meet demand. Diane hopes solutions to resolve this problem will be implemented soon. One example of a solution might be to offer additional lab sections.

Diane learned that the Pass I restrictions placed previously on upper division L&S writing classes are now rescinded; the L&S dean withdrew the restrictions, and CA&ES students will now be able to enroll.

High demand for many courses on campus continues to daunt students in their ability to complete their majors in four years, and Diane suggested that our college faculty consider student needs when planning curricula: pay attention to curricula and course content as well as course enrollment capability.

It was reported that the charge of the committee addressing the 20/20 Vision is not just about expansion, but also about investigating how to meet the needs of current students. Diane said that many courses (chemistry and upper division writing courses, for example) across the colleges continue to not be able to meet high demand. Increased numbers of transfer students is putting pressure on enrollment for prerequisite courses. Lab space, in particular, will be in critical demand for many of the courses in our college, as student enrollment increases.

Chris Calvert reported that CAP sent a letter to him, requesting clarification about the proposal to consolidate the departments of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Textiles and Clothing. It was thought that many of the concerns addressed were not particularly related to the merger, and Chris said that he would draft a response and circulate it to the Executive Committee for comment.
Dean’s Report

Neal Van Alfen reported that the governor’s proposal on the state budget is out and available for review on the internet. The proposal agrees to increase the UC budget 90 million dollars. Retirement has been eliminated as a line item to UC, and instead added to the yearly budget. Neal said that the proposal hinges on California voters this fall agreeing to increased taxes. If the vote to increase taxes fails, there will be a 200 million dollar cut to the UC and CSU systems. Neal encouraged committee members to access this proposal and to read it for themselves.

Neal said the chancellor wishes to set up a couple meetings this quarter with our college faculty. A time and date will be set, and there will be a call sent out to faculty for agenda topics.

Neal said there is a proposal to add a communications position in his office to focus on helping the college communicate what it is doing and what it is giving back to the state.

Administrative Officer’s Reports -

Jim MacDonald reported that in two weeks, there will be a new call for CE specialist positions, with a deadline of mid-May for proposals.

Mary Delany reported that the Administrative Clusters Review Committee has been working on the report on the state of college clusters. Interviews have been conducted with Chief Administrative Officers and a survey was sent to faculty and staff. The committee hopes to address best practices and offer advice on how to achieve administrative cluster success,

Submitted by Brenda Nakamoto