Horticultural Sciences (HS) Department Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2013 9:30-10:30  In attendance: Chris Chase, Ken Cline, Danielle Treadwell, Eduardo Vallejos, Rebecca Darnell

1 – Faculty observed that Bob Morris’ rate had not been returned to the department as we were informed it would by the Assistant Vice President during the installment of the SSC.

   • The FAC recommends that the Department Chair pursue resolution of this issue and update the faculty on the status of this situation at the next full faculty meeting.

2 – RLD provided a summary of federal and state funds held by the Department for the current fiscal year. The concern is that failure to spend them will result in a reduced share for the department next year.

   • Given the lag time required for purchasing, the FAC recommends that the available state teaching, research and extension dollars be divided equally among all on-campus faculty for immediate spending.

   • With respect to the available Federal Funds, there is a little more time to consider needs of the department as a whole. We recommend an ad hoc committee to collect suggestions and present their recommendations to the Chair and faculty on how to best spend these for the benefit of the department.

3 – EV led a discussion of the IDC vs DC dilemma and the need for transparent and immediate access to our IDCs to cover critical operating needs. The FAC decided there were multiple issues at hand. One is a lack of transparency with respect to the IFAS IDC formula and accounting for IDC returns. Another is the immediate need for mechanisms to cover items that are critical to sponsored projects but cannot be paid out of DC funds. Finally, the single annual payment of IDC funds to faculty creates a gap in access to IDC funds intended to purchase items and services not allowed by funding agencies but needed to support grant activities.

   • The FAC recommends that EV take the transparency and accounting issues to the IFAS Faculty Assembly through our representative.

   • The FAC also recommends a general faculty discussion with Fifield SSC staff on mechanisms for requesting/processing exemptions so DC could be used and the feasibility of a “loan pool” of IDCs investigators could draw against while waiting for a yearly deposit of earned IDCs.

4 – We also discussed the fact that some of our best Chair Search Candidates would require significant lab space, and yet we have absolutely no space to show them. Ideally the solution to this issue should come from the IFAS VP.

   • The FAC recommends a discussion of this issue during the full faculty meeting so that we can at least be thinking possible options and solutions.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM
Submitted by Christine Chase