

Infrastructure and Resources Committee Annual Report (2016-2017) IFAS Faculty Assembly

*Submitted by Andrew Ogram, IRC Chair, Soil and Water Science (aogram@ufl.edu).
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Committee information: The primary charge of the committee is to provide input to the IFAS Faculty Assembly from Administration on matters regarding allocation of resources and IFAS' long-term and short-term strategic plans. The committee consists of eight members, of which four are elected from the Faculty Assembly and four are appointed. The appointed members consist of a department chair, research center director, district director, and the senior associate vice president.

Committee membership: The 2016-17 committee members included Andy Ogram (IRC Chair, Soil and Water Science, term expires 2017), Erica Goss (IRC Chair Elect, Plant Pathology, term expires 2018), Saundra TenBroek (Animal Sciences), Dorota Hama (Chair, Agricultural and Biological Engineering), Jeanna Mastrodicasa (Senior Associate VP), Gregg Nuessley (Director, Everglades Research and Education Center), and Brenda Rogers (South Central Extension District Director).

Committee membership for 2017-2018 includes the following elected members: Erica Goss (Plant Pathology, Committee Chair), Shirley Baker, Peter Dittmar, and Mark Ritenour. The appointed members include: Dorota Haman (Chair, Agricultural and Biological Engineering); Gregg Nuessley (Interim Center Director, Everglades Research and Education Center); Brenda Rogers (Director, South Central District). Jeanna Mastrodicasa (Associate Vice President, IFAS) will continue to serve *ex officio*.

Budget and faculty hires: The IFAS expenditures for FY2015-2016 increased in all categories over the previous year (\$416 million compared with \$340 million from FY2014-15). The RCM was replaced with new models; for teaching, the new model is based on tuition rather than student credit hours; and for research, IDC will be distributed according to revenue rather than expenditures. The year has been a period of growth for IFAS, with 75 new faculty hires and 29 faculty retired.

The optimism at the beginning of the year may change, however, with IFAS potentially facing over \$6 million cuts to recurring items for FY 2017-2018. If approved, these cuts will impact all units to some degree.

Buildings and renovations: IFAS maintains 370 buildings across the state (only 26% of which are on the main campus) ranging in age from 1917 to 2016 (older structures, such as the 1917 structure, are not occupied buildings, but rather pump houses, etc.).

The IFAS Shared Services building was completed. This move freed up over 2000 square feet in Fifield Hall, which will be distributed among the three departments occupying Fifield Hall. Renovations of McCarty Hall B and the ground floor of McCarty D are continuing, with an improved G001 McCarty Hall to be available Spring Semester, 2018. New studio space for online courses is planned for Building 162. A new parking garage has been discussed, and current plans are being discussed to place it behind Hume Hall in the commuter lot on Gale Lemerand Dr.

Hurricane Hermine caused significant damage to the Nature Coast Biological Station; the planned dormitory will be razed. The Beef Teaching Unit was significantly improved, with dormitory space for four students and classrooms. Significant renovations were completed at TREC, CREC, and SWREC.

Computing: UF officially supports only PC personal computers and not Apple products; however, UF recognizes that a significant and increasing number of faculty and students use Apple products. A task force has been established to investigate how those products can be supported.

Polycom, the UF system for on line conferencing, is being replaced by Zoom. As of this writing, the system is not fully in place. Faculty can use the free version of Zoom, which is limited to 40 minutes. IFAS has purchased 300 subscriptions that will allow unlimited time for conferences; however, these have not yet been distributed to departments.

UF PPD: Many of the buildings used by IFAS departments are owned by UF and rented by IFAS, including McCarty Hall and Frazier Rogers Hall. Maintenance of these buildings falls under the responsibility of UF Physical Plant Division. UF PPD is responsive to opportunities to work with faculty to improve efficiencies and maintenance. "High performance" work teams are being organized in which custodial staff will conduct simple routine maintenance such as replacing light bulbs. Single trade projects such as simple carpentry will be conducted by PPD staff in an attempt to lower costs and shorten turn around times.