

IFAS FACULTY ASSEMBLY

DRAFT MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2020

3:00 – 4:30

REMOTE MEETING

ROLL CALL	ALLAN BACON	SECRETARY
CALL TO ORDER	SHIRLEY BAKER PETTER DITTMAR	CHAIR CHAIR ELECT
APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES		

IFAS ASSEMBLY CHAIR REPORT	DR. SHIRLEY BAKER
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IFAS VP Search Update | In final stages, announcement in next two to three weeks.

IFAS UPDATE	DR. JACK PAYNE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
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Hats off to everyone who is social distancing, it seems to be working. Many hats off to those who transitioned to online teaching on such short notice.

Currently IFAS pursuing about 430 lines of “Essential” Research and Extension. These have been approved by Dr Norton.

FL fruit and vegetable industry getting hit hard by COVID-19. Dairy too. Extension faculty working tirelessly to address this.

University is hemorrhaging money right now. For example, Health Science might be more than \$200 million in the hole. Vet School about \$35 million in the hole.

Communicating to APLU to try and get 12 month research reimbursement (rather than four month reimbursement) in federal recovery bills. Compensation will require documentation/proof so consider (and expect requests) for documentation of losses.

UF hiring pause. Only provost can ok exceptions. Need to create fund to support new hires. Will sweep money for open positions to build this fund. IFAS Department Chairs and Center Directors have sent a list of “critical” positions to be filled. List will be passed along to Provost, expect him to be VERY stringent. Not placing value on any particular land grant mission, but teaching appointments did get some priority (in order to support student degrees) and extension also prioritized (counties pay 40% of salary). IFAS list now being passed on to the Provost. Hopefully hiring freeze will last no more than 6 months.

Discussions regarding re-opening UF in the Fall are ongoing. Summer sessions already pushed back. Decision to re-open will depend largely on testing capabilities. Don’t be surprised if we’re all wearing masks. There has been no discussion of faculty terminations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tenure and Promotion Committee (no report)

CALS Curriculum Committee (Patrick Inglett)

- 4 approved undergrad course proposals, three back for changes
- 9 new grad course proposals, all approved
- New checklist for submissions if functioning, it's not only required, it's much more efficient too.
- Marine Sciences degree approved by Board of Trustees
- Plant breeding PhD degree in Plan Breeding still moving forward.

Infrastructure and Resource Committee (no report)

Professional Welfare Committee (Lisa Lundy)

- Will put together a FAQ document for details regarding extending the tenure clock. Assembly members please spread the word and compile questions.

Faculty Senate (no report)

IFAS HR (Denise Bogart)

- More about hiring pause...
 - (1) If you are hoping to fill a grant funded position you can move forward with it. Only state funded positions are paused.
 - (2) State funded positions that were posted were taken down in one fell swoop. There was supposed to be mass email going out to notify us of this, not sure if it went or not, but if you are receiving questions from applicants please inform them that there is a pause on hiring and positions will be reposted when possible.
- Recently graduated graduate students can talk to IFAS HR generally about unemployment but they will need to file with the state.

DEAN'S ROUNDTABLE

Dr. Elaine Turner, CALS Dean

Thanks to ALL Faculty for managing during this disruption. In addition to being aware of student challenges (i.e. cutting them breaks when possible), do please cut yourself a break.

Virtual Gator Gathering on Tuesday went very well. Kathy Carr set up four well-placed alumni and one current student on panel and over 100 participants.

Planning additional virtual events. April 24th will do Facebook Live event for CALS Award Ceremony. Developing something for Graduation Day on May 3rd.

Hiring Pause extends to incoming Graduate Assistantships. Just as faculty hires need provost approval, so too do Assistantships. Provost has approved ALL IFAS Assistantships that were received from IFAS units.

GSFAs can be "banked" for future if a unit is not overly excited about incoming students (i.e. first option turned UF down).

Staying in contact with admitted Freshman. Student volunteers and individual units are staying in contact with admitted freshmen.

Transfer students coming in the summer can delay enrollment until the fall if they want.

Summer A and C is all online, Summer B is also entirely online and delayed one week.

Developing scenarios for Fall semester as we do not know how it will look but want to be prepared.

Really appreciative of those faculty members who have stepped up to help other faculty make online transition. Similarly, DE students are providing tips to “on-campus” students about how best to operate in a distance education format.

When entering grades be prepared to see both S/U and Letter grade options in the same class. Will vary from student to student depending on if they opted for S/U.

Discussions are ongoing about how to handle international students that were previously planning on arriving in the Fall. Will be difficult situation that depends greatly on VISA considerations as well as whether or not UF is residential at that point.

AID A Gator has provided ~1.5 million to support students this Spring.

Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dean for IFAS Research

What Faculty can do to prepare for re-opening? Not too early to consider incremental ramp up of research programs. Be aware that certain students/staff may be “high-risk” moving forward. Expect ramp up to occur sometime between June 2020 and January 2021. Task force being formed to consider how to provide for PPE going forward.

Essential activities need to somehow show how resources are being maintained or how something protects agricultural products/natural resources. 95% of activities sent from IFAS to Dr. Norton are approved.

Implications for ongoing grants. Continue to submit proposals please. Be innovative to continue to provide deliverables. Developing template (probably shared early next week) to guide annual reporting. Evaluating supplemental funding opportunities.

Advocating for re-budgeting and trying to find additional resources to support research. Considering a “Kick-start” research fund.

One-year extension for T&P is worth considering.

March 2020 submitted grant proposals exceeded that of 2019.

Holding a Faculty Town Hall Forum related to teaching, research, and teaching with COVID-19.

Dr. Nick Place, Dean for Extension

Extension is having M, W, F morning meetings to address disaster response.

As mentioned by Dr. Payne, fruit, veg, and dairy is getting hammered. Really identifies how un-resilient industries may be. Hopefully, upon rebound we can increase resilience.

Interest in garden planting has grown during COVID-19. Developing “Victory Garden” to train and provide resources related to gardening.

Lots of IFAS efforts focused on economic hardships during this time.

Please do not hesitate to contact if financial support is needed to develop resources and transition to remote extension products.

National Extension Directors put together proposal (\$80 million) that is in front of legislatures to take online extension into the “new normal”.

Has elevated partnership/collaboration with UF Health to deliver information related to COVID-19.

Thur Webinars (11am) still ongoing and going very well.

Agricultural loss survey being developed and will be going out soon.

OTHER ISSUES & ACTIONS

Summarizing some student concerns (Shirley Baker and Jack Payne and Rob Gilbert)

- Students feeling extra pressure but at the same time experiencing less interaction/support.
- Support students as much as possible.
- Major Professors need to communicate and modify research plans to facilitate degree completion.

IFAS Nominations for Faculty Senate (3-year term). Please self-nominate or nominate NOW. Bio sketches to Kim Rollins are due ASAP.

IFAS FA needs a chair-elect for next year.

Whiney Elmore nominated for IFAS FA Secretary.

Over summer Shirley Baker will address three-year terms that are ending and chairs of committees.

Next meeting May 20, 2020.

OPEN DISCUSSION FROM ASSEMBLY FLOOR

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT