

Extension Educator Council Meeting Minutes May 10, 2006

Present: Alice Mullen, Steven Turaj, Lisa Townson, Geoffrey Njue, Karen Blass, Alan Eaton, Matt Tarr

We distributed, read and accepted minutes of March 8, 06 meeting

EEC Blog and Website

Alice had visited and tried (unsuccessfully) to add something to the blog site. We discussed beginning with 1) what we planned to put in and why 2) what are EEC's roles 3) purpose of the blog/forum. We discussed setup logistics and topics. Suggestions: 1) COLSA reorganization 2) COA(county administrator) issues 3) balancing work and personal life 4) reporting 5) new issues (a.k.a. scuttlebutt) PAT council's web page is a possible template for us, with some modifications.

EEC Chair's update (Alice)

From President's staff meeting: President Hart is going to Temple University; will depart UNH in May. Bill Trumble has been asked to step down from the COLSA dean position. WSBE dean Steve Bolander is retiring. James McCarthy (dean, HHS) is looking for another job. Jen Murray gave an overview of the President's recent "county conversations". Alice Mullen is still on the ideas committee — looking at the suggestions people have submitted to make improvements at UNH, save \$, etc.

Alice spoke with Jason Brodeur and Rick MacDonald (PAT/OS council chairs) to see what they are doing to serve the needs of their staff.

At the recent systems policy committee meeting :

- Faculty are going through contract negotiations again. Questions were raised as to how this will affect professional and technical staff, operating staff and extension educators.
- A consultant on health care management spoke. Among the points: 15% of the employees generate 75% of health services costs. Aging population = costs going up They are trying to move toward more shared responsibilities (employee + employer) to lower costs. They are trying to get bids this year from Cigna, Harvard Pilgrim and Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- The new solicitation policy was passed. It includes time slots when solicitation in the workplace will be allowed. There was a revision in lunch/break times (for hourly employees)

Awards and/Professional Development Grants Meeting (Karen)

More extension staff have been applying for prof. development grants than in the past. The committee especially looks to see if your department is paying for a share, and if you are making some kind of personal contribution.

There were four Extension nominees for Presidential Award of Excellence this year: Karen Bennett, Lauren Bresset, Mike Sciabarrasi, Alan Eaton.

Extension's awards and recognition committee is now headed by Jim Grady. This is the second year for these, and there were far more nominations this year than last. We discussed informal recognition.

COLSA Reorganization and Displacement Reviews (Alan)

We are anticipating word from President Hart on her plan for reorganization of COLSA. She will present her plan before she leaves. Some faculty are concerned that she won't be here to oversee implementation of her plan. Since this will be at the end of the academic year, and many faculty are away during summer, not much is likely to happen until the fall semester begins. The number of departments and possible names of departments are expected to be in her plan, but the location for programs to be housed is likely to be decided later.

The displacement review process has continued, and we still await details on position reductions that Provost Bruce Mallory announced last year. In order to balance COLSA's budget, 20 or more positions [I can't find original notes on this number!] in COLSA will have to be eliminated. Because of contract with the faculty union, eliminations must begin with non-tenure track people. When that category is exhausted, tenure-track staff who have not yet achieved tenure can be considered. After that category is exhausted, tenured staff can be considered. Bill Trumble recently announced that recent departures/retirements "won't count" in their figuring. COLSA is deeply "in the red"

Future EEC Chair?

Alice has served 3 years now; will not serve as president after this term is done. Someone new must take over in January 2007. Steve Turaj's term on EEC ends in 2007. One duty of EEC president is to attend the UNH president's staff meetings. With the new president, these could move to be quarterly (now monthly). Currently the EEC chair also serves as SPCC representative, but this could change. The vice chair tends to be awards and recognition person (Heckel, PAE, Prof. dev. grants committee, being ahead on announcements & reminders, etc.

John Pike and Jim Grady joined us

Alice gave John a copy of our (revised) duties & responsibilities descriptions for EEC members, plus a list of our goals we set at the January PAT/OS/EEC retreat. We asked if he could take a look and give us feedback, if any.

John pointed out there was a nice article on Coop Ext in the Home & Garden insert in yesterday's (Tues May 9) Foster's Daily Democrat. Also, recent Ext events received media attention, including the Merrimack(?) county conversation just held, 4-H walk NH project with Susan Lynch, and John Porter receiving the presentation award.

Jim Grady pointed out that we need to be looking at our state and our clientele, and asking what positions are critical to ensure continued service to our clientele.

We discussed options for salary increases. There is no information yet from the university on this (still in discussion with the faculty union?). EEC should discuss how we think increases should be handled, and report back to Jim by June

Adjourned. Notes submitted by Alan Eaton