PLS Faculty Meeting Notes 1-21-21 12:30PM

-Discussion that we are happy to have Amanda join the monthly faculty meetings and that she provides valuable input , but that she shouldn’t be burdened with taking notes. Matt will ask one of the PLS faculty to take notes for each meeting instead.

-Weed Science position going forward very soon

-Met with ACBS about Microbiology degree. Expecting to hear a response soon about plans for a joint Microbiology degree within the next couple of weeks.

-Remarks about 2020 APR process. Last week the plan for APR was sent out, based on a memo sent by Provost Folks in September and feedback from Faculty Council as well as conversations with Matt and Jean McClain. Goals are to simplify process for faculty to report and to simplify process for committee to provide evaluations. The committee feels that everyone doing “what they had to do in the last year” has exceeded expectations already. Discussions are still evolving about how reviews will be dealt with, but the form that was created is based on forms used by other units in college. Less emphasis on UA Vitae. Expectation for UA Vitae is that the information is useful for future promotions and performance information. It is wise to go in and check the information, but it isn’t going to be evaluated by the APR committee this year.

-Monica Schmidt will step into the Director of Graduate Studies role in early February

-Discussion about 7 year review

Matt will meet with the Provost Folks and Dean Burgess next week to discuss the report.

Executive summary: 4 main points. Would be best for Matt to go into this meeting with action items in response to these points.

1. Concerned about administration of the Microbiology major (Matt is hopeful)
2. Felt that we were fulfilling some of the mission with regards to Plant Pathology and Extension
   * 1. We’ve had a lot of retirements and not a lot of hiring. Can use this as an action point to ask for additional support
3. Unit should assess how it could adapt its portfolio of teaching and research to the existing RCM model
   * 1. There are efficient ways to generate revenue within the RCM model currently as funds can be distributed directly to unit, but looks as though the \*other\* teaching opportunities will be placed in the RCM budget and once that happens the funds will go to college.
     2. Moving degree online might be challenging, but that might be a good option to build shares in RCM
4. Unit should revisit the mission statement to determine whether they can continue to fulfill the missions

Would be good to create recommendations where things are underway or being taken care of, but there are also things that the committee is suggesting that we ask of CALS and it would be good to send a document around faculty to deal with these things.

Would be good for us as faculty to evaluate where we want to go and go there, rather than be completely reactive to some of the recommendations

Might it be useful to present to the dean and/or provost the unresolved concerns as a question such as "what more can be done to solve this issue?" This approach might underscore our desires without incrimination.

Leadership: perception about unclear communication from top down through the unit head to faculty. Permanent standing committee for allocation of discretionary funds within the unit.

Faculty: concern about diversity. It is critical that we fix this, but it is unclear what the best path forward right now

Mentoring:

Resources: Digital Ag and Plant-Microbe interaction positions are going forward and both could interact with resources in Maricopa

Enrollment: advisors that have been hired hopefully will help to increase enrollment

Need to think about the students when we are thinking about recruiting students through online degrees

Graduate degrees are disjointed between applied and basic sciences: One of goals is to hire more applied faculty. Silvertooth is supportive of hiring an agronomist that might train graduate students

Extension: we are currently moving forward with hires, and we need to consider and emphasize the importance of DEI across these hires. Committee felt like extension faculty should contribute to teaching.

We should have a public plant diagnostic clinic that could serve for cost recovery (the problem is money). It requires a lot of work and resources, especially in Arizona given the commodity groups.