

CALS Governance Council Minutes

February 23, 2022

10:00AM – 11:00AM

Zoom

Alan Grant called the meeting to order at 10:00am with a welcome to everyone.

Council members present via Zoom: Alan Grant, Teresa Smith, Steve Kleiber, Susan Chen, Tom Thompson, Ed Jones, Susan Duncan, Chad Proudfoot, Erin Ling, Jennifer Jones, Carol Haynes, Margaret Kenny, Matthew Chappell, Maria Balota, Saied Mostaghimi, Sandra Gabbert, Stephanie Brown, Dan Goerlich, Susan Sumner, Joe Eifert, Inga Haugen, Vernon Meacham, Patrick Hilt, Susan Prillaman, Melissa Wright, and Dave Winston

Approval of the Agenda:

A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion received a second and was approved.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion received a second and was approved.

Old Business:

None

Committee Reports:

Committee on Academic Program Policy:

Jennifer Jones reported.

- Collegiate faculty promotion guidelines are complete and posted on the website
- Committee will meet on March 29th to finalize some items that were researched and discussed during fall 2021
 - Instructor vs. tenure-track faculty position on phased retirement
 - In-state level policy that has verbiage specific to tenure-track faculty

CALS Curriculum Committee:

Dave Winston reported.

- CALS Curriculum Committee meets on the third Thursdays at 1:00 PM
- Proposals should be submitted at least one week in advance of the next committee meeting
 - Meeting dates for the remainder of the academic year are March 17 and April 21
- CALS has four new undergraduate courses, three new undergraduate Pathways courses, eight new graduate courses, and two revised graduate courses that have been approved by the CALS Curriculum Committee, approved at the university level, and added to their

respective catalogs. A Graduate Certificate in Applied Economic Analytics has also been approved.

Committee on Extension and Research Program Policy:

No report

Committee on International Program Policy:

No report.

CALS Library Update:

Inga Haugen reported.

- National Agricultural Producer Data Cooperative (NAPDC)
 - <https://www.agdatacoop.org/>
 - Develop a blueprint for a national agricultural producers data framework by identifying needs and opportunities as well as challenges in physical infrastructure, human resources, and use cases;
 - Engage and support diverse participation including all types of agricultural research institutions, producers, and representatives of a relevant data producer and end-user organizations, to foster first steps towards the development of the framework; and
 - Communicate and disseminate findings of all activities through publications, peer-reviewed articles, and presentations to scientific and producer groups.
 - The development of a robust national community to develop an agricultural producer data framework will drive technological innovation towards increased productivity, profitability, and sustainability for US agriculture
- University Libraries sharing other mini-grants (~\$5k) more rounds coming
- There is a position for an agriculture librarian assistant, 1500 wage position
- I have applied for a semester research leave for fall 2022
- [FFV Chapter Chats](#) are now live
- Found “Investment in the Future” a film about the ARECs for their 100th anniversary
 - Looking into getting it digitized, and recataloged so it’s findable

CALS Diversity Council:

Erin Ling reported.

- Carver program is actively accepting applications (via Submittable – link found on CALS Carver website) – please encourage graduate students to apply
- College affinity group student organizations (MANRRS and Students for Cultivating Change) are both starting crowdfunding campaigns next month to help fundraise for general initiatives. Please consider supporting
- CALS DEI graduate course (ALS 5984: Building Multicultural Competence in Agriculture and Life Sciences) – 45 students enrolled this semester. Course is going well. Students are earning DEI certificates to reflect skills gained on their resume/CV, sharing in weekly discussion boards, and completing 4 experiential learning experiences that expand their comfort zones.
- Diversity Council is still in the process of identifying leadership, building a professional development program, and having by laws reflect current leadership vision.

- CALS Diversity Awards: Service (faculty, staff and students; due date April 15) and Incentive Awards (due date April 29). Mention the three areas for incentive awards (research, teaching, and extension). Also mention that we are adding clarifying language to the Randy Grayson award to target undergraduate students. This is with the goal to present the undergrad award during graduation.
- Dr. Thorpe is hosting a PDN workshop on Instructional and research professionals in higher education: Elevating the contributions of non-tenure track faculty. The next date coming up is March 2, 2022. Register via the PDN website.
- College and council are getting prepared to review the college level data for the 2021 climate survey. Also requested a report from central HR on data broken down by demographics (race, gender, etc.). Not expecting to get that data back (n is too small) but are expecting to get executive summary of trends and themes
- CALS has secured its own climate survey and there are plans to deploy that survey in the Fall after a team of college stakeholders review and edit
- VCE DEI Updates (New group of Diversity Fellows which will start their training next month...bringing back consultant to create an action plan for the group, increased requests coming in from the state for DEI trainings but there is NO capacity. Capacity building is a need within VCE and on campus for leadership, standing meetings between Asst. Dean of DEI and Ben Grove to discuss Civil Rights Compliance..... ensuring alignment to NIFA

Updates from Dean and Associate Deans:

Academic Programs

Susan Sumner reported.

- Spring break is March 5-12th
- Mask mandate notice to be forthcoming
- Commencement – Thursday, May 12th at 3:30pm in Lane Stadium

CALS Global

Tom Thompson reported.

- New member of the CALS Global team, Jessica Agnew, Associate Director, joined us in February
- At the end of 2021, CALS Global submitted two major proposals to USAID--\$30M for work in Mozambique, \$5M for work in Nepal. We're still waiting to hear on both of them. A lot of our energy is now devoted to finding and applying for funding opportunities that will engage students and faculty
- Study abroad courses taught during winter semester:
 - Costa Rica-Samantha Harden, HNFE
 - Senegal-Tom Archibald, ALCE
 - Ecuador-Renee Eaton, HNFE and Matt Eick, SPES

- Faculty continue to submit proposals for study abroad courses and express interest in creating new courses. We hope that we've turned the corner and can resume the growth momentum that we had before the pandemic
- Our new non-credit Global Student Leaders Program is underway this semester. This is an intensive program with eight CALS students who will learn to apply principles of systems and critical thinking to tackle global challenges related to the SDGs. Ben Grove is leading that program with several faculty mentors.
- CALS Global will be the subject of an external review (5-year cycle) during this spring. We are developing a self-study document and expect to have a review team on campus at the end of April.
- Our 2021 Global Opportunity Initiative cohort (6 CALS, 3 VM) completed the program in June 2021, but were not able to travel to Kenya, as we usually do. We're now working with our East African partners to develop a trip to Kenya and Tanzania in June 2022 to work with these partners. We hope this will happen!

Research

No report.

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Ed Jones reported.

- Upcoming NIFA Civil Rights audit
 - Requested information has been submitted
 - Currently waiting on response from NIFA with any recommendations
- General Assembly budget
 - Optimistic that there will be significant resources coming to CALS through Agency 229 for the ARECs, both in capital funding, operating and one-time funds, and to Extension and ARECs funding for specialists positions
 - Enhance agent salaries
 - A budget amendment to support 4-H
- McKenzie Scott has donated \$50 million to The National 4-H Council to be used for 4-H nationally
 - Task Force to be established to determine how best to distribute it to states and counties to boost their programming

Dean

Alan Grant reported.

- Number of searches
 - VCE Director search
 - Two AREC director positions in process
 - Southern Piedmont
 - Alson H. Smith, Jr.
 - CALS IT Director

- Neal Vines has retired

Announcements

Vernon Meacham reported.

- Giving Day is today, February 23rd beginning at noon
 - On track to meet our goal

Chad Proudfoot reported via chat.

- NPR story today on the history and changing world of VCE

Motion made and approved to adjourn.

Crystal Tawney, Recorder