

Your Academic Assembly Council (AAC) Executive Committee met with VP Dan Dooley on Feb. 12th

Members Attending: Paul Vossen, President; Leigh Johnson, President Elect; Brenna Aegerter, Secretary; Frank Mitloehner, Campus Chair; and Joyce Strand, Academic Coordinator Chair

The primary objectives of the meeting:

- Develop a relationship with our new VP
- Inform him of the role of AAC
- Explore ways to make AAC more relevant to ANR administration.

We briefly described the mission/purpose of AAC. VP Dooley indicated that he had been out to see several county advisor and specialist projects around the state, and that he wants to be accessible, but admits he hasn't given a lot of thought to the role of AAC in his initiatives. However, **he would like to meet regularly with AAC and see how we might contribute to his initiatives.**

Major things VP Dooley has been working on:

- Advocacy and communications – he hosted 3 webinars recently. He wants county-based staff, who have the connections, to engage decision makers and elected officials to advocate for ANR.
- Strategic Plan Initiative – a vision for future of ANR – demand based – fill gaps – target audience is the Regents. The process was that Program Council and an 11-person steering committee drafted a plan. He wants us to pick the top priorities at town hall meetings in the regions and on campuses. **He also wants AAC to provide formal written input.** He wants the draft “Strategic Vision” for ANR to be the basis for reorganizing and creating a platform to move forward.
- UC Provost review was conducted of ANR in a way that was acceptable to the Academic Senate. The review was favorable academically. Senate leadership now feels better about our Division.
- Review of CE by CSREES (Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service)
- Developing a new structure to connect ANR to UC campuses besides Davis, Berkeley, and Riverside.
- Recognition of the academic status of Specialists and Advisors – Academic Senate leadership has goal of "equivalent status" for Specialists and Advisors,

Other topics discussed:

- Need to reinvigorate CE continuum – VP Dooley is concerned about pressure on Specialists to be like I&R faculty – loss of identity and extension work?
- New position as Senior VP of External Relations - spending a lot of time with President Yudof, who now better understands our Division and public service component
- Pilot projects and collaborations between non-ANR campus faculty and county-based researchers
- Mentoring for advisors – a recommendation from Provost's review. **Wants AAC to participate**
- Streamlining administration at Oakland and regional offices - lower overhead – more efficiency