

Academic Assembly Council

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Quarterly Report, March 2012

A Message from the President...

Dear Colleagues,

As most of you know, the Academic Assembly Council (AAC) represents all UC ANR academics statewide through elected representatives. Our overall objective is to be a direct voice for UC ANR academics to UC ANR administration leaders. Two weeks ago, AAC officers and various committee chairs met with ANR Vice President Barbara Allen Diaz, Associate Vice President William Frost, and Executive Director Academic Personnel Kim Rodriguez. The main agenda items were the ANR budget, new position releases for CE specialists and advisors, mentoring of new and existing academics, and ways in which to foster ongoing cooperation between county-based and campus based academics and our clientele.

The overall UC budget is experiencing permanent cuts of \$100 million, and the funding streams within the university have changed over the recent years. An important funding change to note is that beginning this year, ANR will be funded through a so-called re-benching mechanism, which includes a 1.6% tax that all undergraduate campuses pay to fund non-student entities. This funding will replace the current formula that funds ANR directly through state general funds, which will only be allocated to campuses based on undergraduate enrollment. Naturally, we are concerned about the potential impact of this change in funding stream to ANR. On the other hand, I am pleased to report that ANR will benefit from reversion pool funds that become available through ANR retirements. These funds will be used to fund 20 new specialist and advisor positions. The hiring process is already underway.

UC Davis campus specialists have assembled a mentoring handbook referred to as the "CE Specialist Guide" (caes.ucdavis.edu, click on the "Faculty and Staff" tab). AAC will develop a companion mentoring guide for advisors. These guides will become particularly important for our new ANR hires.

One of the most pressing issues for AAC membership is the challenge regarding the campus/county continuum. Both ANR academics and outside stakeholders appreciate that the cooperative extension system consisting of the three land grant campuses—Davis, Riverside and Berkeley—and the counties are addressing areas in which cooperation needs to be improved. While numerous program areas are considered very effective, there are areas in which improvement can occur. AAC is making it a priority to improve the campus/county continuum. We will soon receive a charge letter by Barbara Allen Diaz to assemble a steering committee with representation of specialists and advisors from all three campuses and counties. The objective of this committee will be to analyze campus – county cooperation and service to our clientele, identifying both strengths and weaknesses. The committee will also identify and recommend processes for potential solutions that improve the areas of weakness. The committee will provide an advisory report to the ANR leadership to improve the effectiveness of our organization and positive visibility to stakeholders throughout California.

I thank those of you who serve on AAC committees and encourage comments or suggestions to be forwarded to us for inclusion in discussions with our administration.

Sincerely,

Frank Mitloehner, PhD

President

Associate UCCE Specialist and Associate Professor, UC Davis

Our Mission

The mission of the ANR Academic Assembly Council is to provide a forum to enhance the impacts of CE programs and address the professional needs of CE academic employees.

Executive Committee

President

Frank Mitloehner

fmmitloehner@ucdavis.edu

Past President

Steven Wright

sdwright@ucdavis.edu

President-Elect

John Karlik

jfkarlik@ucdavis.edu

Secretary

Matthew Portillo

mtportillo@ucdavis.edu

Academic Coord. Comm. Chair

Shermain Hardesty

shermain@primal.ucdavis.edu

Specialist Committee Chair

Ken Tate

kwatate@ucdavis.edu

Advisor Committee Chair

Franz Niederholzer

fjniederholzer@ucdavis.edu

Next AAC Meeting

May 31, 2012

9:00AM—5:00PM

UC ANR Building, Plum Room
UC Davis



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