

North Central Joint Meeting Academic Program Section

July 10, 2002

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources University of Nebraska- Lincoln Update

Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) Administration

- **Chuck Laughlin** has been serving as the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor since August 2001.
- **Steve Waller** was named Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), effective June 3, 2002.

Departmental Administration

- **Kyle Hoagland** is Acting Director, School of Natural Resource Sciences.
- **Don Weeks** is Head, Department of Biochemistry.
- **Michael Fromm** is Director, Center for Biotechnology.

Enrollment Update and Student Demographics (Fall 2001 Census) -

- The UNL enrollment increased 2.23% to 22,764 Fall 2001 (undergraduate enrollment only increased 0.10%). CASNR undergraduate enrollment decreased 2.84% to 1368 (1345 at UNL and 23 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha).
- CASNR student credit hours (SCH) increased slightly in Fall 2001 (16,491 to 16,573).
- UNO Enrollment and SCH's have increased in each the last four years (1998-1999: 217 students and 661 SCH; 1999-2000: 231 students and 746 SCH; 2000-2001: 284 students and 922 SCH; 2001-2002: 430 students and 1359 SCH). Forty-two percent of the UNL credit delivered at UNO was by CASNR.
- Graduation (December 2000, May 2001, August 2001) was down 11.2% from the previous year to 300. This was still the fourth highest rate in the last 12 years.
- First-time student (new freshman, new transfer) enrollment **decreased 10.6%** to 277. The majors with the largest class of new freshmen were **Agribusiness (42)**, **Animal Science (31)**, **Veterinary Science (26)**, and **Horticulture (15)**. The majors with the largest class of new transfer students were **Agribusiness (16)**, **Animal Science (12)**, and **Horticulture (10)**.
- Enrollment in majors in the Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources **declined 15.3%** and the percent of the total CASNR enrollment declined from 13.5% to 11.8%.
- The student population was **64.3% male** and **35.7% female**; **92.7% Caucasian**, **5.0% Asian**, **1.0% Black**, **0.3% Hispanic**, and **1.0% Multi-racial**.
- **Twenty-nine percent** of first-time students were transfer students. Enrollment for transfer students continues to increase. New transfers were **up 8%**.
- The top five majors based on enrollment were: **Agribusiness (253)**, **Animal Science (174)**, **Horticulture (144)**, **Veterinary Science (112)**, and **Agronomy (106)**.
- Areas of growth included **Agricultural Economics (+24.0%)**, **Food Science (+20.4%)**, **Agribusiness (+8.6%)**, and **Horticulture (+6.7%)**.
- Areas of declining enrollment included **Agronomy (-11.7%)**, **Environmental Studies (-29.5%)** **Fisheries and Wildlife (-18.6%)** and **Veterinary Science (-17.0%)**.
- Graduate student enrollment on the sixth day census (Fall 2000; Fall 2001) reflected an **increase of 16.0%** in CASNR departments (372 to 431 enrolled graduate students). Majors with significant increases were **Entomology [+26 (MS and Ph.D.)]**, **Leadership [+15 (MS)]**, **Biochemistry [+11 (MS and Ph.D.)]**, and **Veterinary Science [+8 (MS)]**.
- Total graduate student number in graduate majors advised by CASNR faculty was **611**(Fall 2001), up from 605 the previous year. Fifteen percent of our graduate students received their graduate degrees through other colleges.
- Total enrollment for CASNR units was **UP 1.1%** compared to Fall 2000 (1408 UG + 372 G = **1780** compared to UG 1368 + 431 G=**1799**). Another positive was that **SCH increased** from 16,491 to 16,573 (0.50%).

New Graduate Programs - Ph.D. in Natural Resource Sciences (approved by the CCPE, Fall 2001) and a joint agreement with ENESAD to bring French students pursuing an M.S. Degree to CASNR.

Scholarship Summary - The number of students receiving awards was 391 and the percentage of students receiving awards was 37%. The number of scholarships awarded was 520. The average value of each award was \$834; the maximum amount awarded was \$2,400. The scholarship total awarded to CASNR students was \$430,986.

New Academic Programs Being Considered or Approved-

- BS degree in Landscape Architecture (Joint with the College of Architecture-proposal drafted)
- Professional Golf Management (to Board of Regents)
- Five-year BS in Environmental Studies (CASNR) and Master of Legal Studies (College of Law-verbal approval)
- Companion Animals (Preliminary discussions)
- Equine Science (2-year, temporary lecturer approved starting July 1, 2002)
- Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism (Joint with CBA and CHRFS, preliminary discussions)
- Ph.D. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (proposal to Executive Graduate Council)

Extended Education Course Offerings - The SCH production increased 18% (779 to 914) this past academic year (2001-2002). Ten graduate courses were offered in Fall 2001 and 12 graduate courses were offered in Spring 2002.

Academic Priority - Our goal is to enhance the undergraduate's preparation for living and working in a rapidly changing and increasingly diverse global community through futuristic, technologically current, research-based curricula that include community and professional service, extensive internship and study abroad programs. A pilot program in student development has been initiated between the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication and the Animal Science Department. This program has received external funding through a USDA Challenge Grant. The College has also provided additional support by funding internships in the Center for Applied Rural Innovations and funding the development of an on-line, university-wide student portfolio.

Recruitment Efforts - Radio ads featuring some of our recent graduates who talk about the importance of their CASNR education were aired in the Fall and Spring. This was a joint activity between IANR, CASNR, CIT and a marketing consultant and we were extremely pleased with the quality and content of the ad campaign. Ten radio ads featuring our students were prepared and aired statewide, primarily on radio stations that attract high school-aged listeners. Listeners were directed to a new web-based "splash" page: *grow.unl.edu*. Other recruitment activities included: Co-funded the Extension Recruitment Coordinator position, scholarships for recruitment (faculty offered, NAYI, State FFA contests), all admitted students were called, and the first CASNR Open House (February 2, 2002) was held.

Retention Programs - CASNR Cares calling campaign was initiated this year. Nearly 200 first-year students were contacted several times during the semester by a Student Ambassador. The College held its first dinner with transfer students to discuss issues and gain their insights on the unique needs of transfer students.

Student Services - Significant changes in undergraduate advising were initiated for Biochemistry and Veterinary Science, Veterinary Technologist and Pre-veterinary Medicine. The Career Day was very successful this year and CASNR was the first college at UNL with on-line registration for employers.

Undergraduate Speakers Bureau - The College initiated an undergraduate speakers bureau. Students applied for approximately 10 positions. Students speak on a variety of topics and are available for a variety of group presentations. Our best recruiters are our students.

Budget - State revenue projections continue to lag well behind the revised projections of the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board, and Nebraska faces its third budget cut in less than a year. To balance the FY-03 budget through February 2002 projections, the University budget was reduced 3.5% (2.5% last fall in a special legislative session and 1% this spring in the general session). This resulted in a \$9.8 million reduction for UNL and \$1,914,969 to IANR (25.44 FTE). State revenues were \$125 million below the revised projections in the last four months of FY-02 and a special session will convene July 30 to identify additional cuts. Despite the budget challenges, salary increases for FY-03 were 4.56%.

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