

Program Viability Taskforce  
Conference Call Minutes  
January 21, 2005  
3:00 PM-4:20 PM ET

Members Present: Barbara Stewart, Stephen Jorgensen, Dixie Crase, Lynda Harriman, Lynette Olsen, Virginia Vincenti, Gwynn Mason, Carol Kellett, and Frances Shipley

Billie Collier, Bernice Richardson, and Shirley-Hymon-Parker were absent.

Virginia Vincenti called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM ET.

The minutes of the November 18, 2004 conference call and the agenda were approved as distributed.

Gwynn Mason agreed to take minutes for the January 21, 2005 conference call.

***Old Business***

1. Program proposal for AAFCS convention  
Barbara Stewart reported that the proposal had been submitted to AAFCS. She will email the proposal to the members of the taskforce.
  
2. Update February 2005 joint meeting of CAFCS and BOHS  
Frances Shipley reported that they had recently sent out a notice to encourage participants to reserve their hotel rooms because they had not met their room block. They discovered that part of the problem with meeting the room block was that the national hotel reservation line told participants the room block was full, but that was not the case. She also said that the meeting program was complete. The taskforce discussed the meeting's keynote speaker, Dr. Pearlman, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who will be addressing program viability and excellence and the reorganization of that campus. They also discussed whether or not it is beneficial for FCS units if chancellors and others in positions of power hear about positive examples of restructuring units. Some members are concerned that it may exacerbate the restructuring trend and further threaten other FCS higher education units that are separate colleges, schools, and/or departments. Combining FCS units with other disciplines/professions weakens the profession's identity. Others were concerned that biased attitudes towards FCS among the higher education presidents, chancellors and provosts could parallel the sixties when the land-grant presidents commissioned the McGrath and Johnson report to try to eliminate home economics from their campuses. Lynda Harriman recommended writing a position paper (as a resource for FCS administrators) to be more proactive about supporting program viability.

The discussion led to the taskforce wanting a separate conference call to identify the purpose, goals, and anew name for the Program Viability

Taskforce. **The next meeting was scheduled for Friday February 25, 2005 at 3:00 PM ET.**

3. Update on funding from CAFCS, AAFCS for website development  
Virginia asked about the status of the funding for the website. Frances reported that CAFCS will vote on the request for an initial \$200 at its February meeting. Lynette said HEU has approved this and Carol thinks that BOHS also did, but she's not sure a final decision was made. She will check. Frances will check on creating a sub account for the funds in CAFCS so they can be used as needed. The funds will be due to CAFCS by the end of February.

4. Mailing lists from NASULGC for follow-up mailing to FCS institutions

Virginia reported that she had received the list from Shirley and will forward it to the rest of the taskforce.

5. Examine content for the website (by email before the meeting)
  - a. Update Consultant's Database list  
Lynette Olsen reported that she had worked on a format with Connor Walters, who is on the Council for Accreditation. Frances Shipley and Carol Kellett will distribute the consultant form during their business meetings at the February CAFCS/BOHS meeting and encourage administrators with appropriate experience to become a consultant.
  - b. Presentations from NASULGC fall 2003  
Carol reported that they had all but one presentation (Carla Hughes) from NASULGC. Virginia asked that Steve Jorgensen, Carol Kellett, and Frances Shipley consider presentations at the CAFCS/BOHS meeting in February to add to the website as resources for other administrators who need alternative models.
  - c. Letters supporting FCS units  
The taskforce decided not to use letters of support. Instead they will post Virginia's issues paper after it is published in the FCSRJ and people's responses to it. They will also ask Kappa Omicron NU about linking to papers from an upcoming *Forum* on issues of the profession.
  - d. Education component—modules – Will be addressed at a later conference call.
  - e. Survey of FCS unit structures  
The taskforce discussed the BOHS' question about the objectives of the website research on institutional structures of FCS in higher education. Virginia reviewed earlier discussion about the purpose of the survey. Initially we were looking for alternative structures that could be useful models to proposed dismantling of FCS units. She also reported that Paulette, her graduate student, has identified FCS programs not on the original lists. It will show how institutional structures may be changing which can be helpful in enhance program viability. After the website research is compiled from that which

Barbara's and Ginny's graduate students have done, they will add a section about FCS Extension which Lynda had recommended. She also reported that we planned to follow up with email survey to the FCS units to verify and/or correct the website research.

- f. Name/title of our taskforce – Discussed earlier in meeting will be included in the focus of the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

6. Cost of previous conference calls

Gwynn reported that she had asked Lynette Olsen about the conference call dates and was waiting for the information. Lynette said she would check on assistant's progress. This is for the purpose of billing the organizations that had agreed to cover the cost of earlier calls.

*New Business*

7. The taskforce decided to only address the coordination of FAEIS and other studies being conducted. They discussed a pilot study by Dennis Saviano. They also discussed how data on enrollment, salaries, and degrees granted was available on the FAEIS website. FAEIS agreed to do benchmarking for FCS, but the groups involved have not yet decided benchmarks they want FAEIS to track. Someone brought up the study on grants for FCS programs done by Christine Johnson from Oklahoma State University and will send Virginia the report, presuming all other members of the taskforce have seen it. Carol is to send Virginia the website needed to obtain the report from FAEIS. Virginia talked about the literature review, conducted by Iowa State University and funded by AAFCS, which found that there are problems with searching for FCS research that need to be corrected so FCS research can have more impact.

HEU will pay for the next conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwynn Mason, AAFCS, PR & Marketing Specialist