

# **Notes from the AAFCS Meeting on Program Enhancement in the Human Sciences/Family and Consumer Sciences**

## **Views of Upper Administrators**

### **Session Title: What Do Central Administrators Think about FCS?**

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#### *Participants on the Panel:*

James Netherton, President  
Carson-Newman College

Nancy Belk, Chancellor  
University of Nebraska – Omaha

Virginia Caples, Former Provost and Former Interim President, current Director of  
Cooperative Extension  
Alabama A & M University

#### **James Netherton**

- We strive for excellence in education – what is good for our students.
- The program must have a good fit with the university mission; there must be consistency in mission.
- Private institutions cost more and have to deliver more.
- The program and its faculty must be invested in the students, caring for students so that graduates increase the reputation of the institution.
- The degree of competence and professionalism of the faculty in a discipline and in programs makes a difference.
- Faculty must be good citizens of the institution, in addition to being good citizens of their disciplines and professions. Faculty should embrace an overall university perspective.
- Graduates of the program should make our society a better society – as a nation and as a global society. They (not sure who he meant: graduates & or faculty) should be servant leaders in society.
- Faculty should be a model for our students as to how they ought to live and work.
- Faculty must exhibit a willingness to embrace change as higher education units.
- We must teach our students to embrace change, while retaining those elements that are important.

- Interdisciplinary work is valuable and valued. FCS tends to be a leader in this area.

### **Nancy Belk**

- There is a national dialogue on organization of FCS among public higher education administrators more than discussion of any other discipline because it crosses the arts and sciences.
- Faculty should be concerned about public policy and improving the quality of life for others.
- You must demonstrate the social and economic benefits of your programs.
- You must be perceived as being worthwhile and contributing. Ask what value do we bring to the table?

### **Virginia Caples**

- The program must be enterprising, able to demonstrate accountability and the mission of the unit must be relevant.
- Contents of programs must be cutting-edge and global.
- National recognition is important.
- Faculty productivity is key in the eyes of upper administration.
- FCS administrators must be:
  - Articulate, persuasive, commanding and unshakeable. They must have passion and vision that is supported by all FCS faculty and staff.
  - Able to provide fact-based evidence of why and how our programs impact society and serve the greater good.
  - Future focused, looking at the long term, shaping our programs proactively to influence the institution.
  - Astute analysts of central administrators on their campuses, knowing what their philosophy is and how they think about your programs.
  - Respected by other deans
- Tie what we do to broad issues.
- Research must be assessed as excellent.
  - Faculty members should be members of national academies of . . . . Our profession has no academy members.
  - Competitive with grants from federal agencies
  - Faculty reviewers on federal grants
- Practice must match philosophy and vision.

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