2020 NCAC1 Annual Report – School of Natural Resource Sciences - NDSU

Administration

Summer 2018 our VP of Ag stepped into interim role as provost. As a result our College of Agriculture Food Systems, an Natural Resources underwent an administrative reconfiguration. Upper administration and State Board of Ag and Education studied a number of Ag Admin models from various LGUs. The result was to combine Dir AES, Dir Ext, and College Dean with VP of Ag Administration. Recently completed the VP of Ag Affairs search and Dr. Greg Lardy was recently name. Will be doing search for Associate Dir of Ext soon. Frank Casey was named as Associate Director of AES in February 2019 (35% appt), and still serves as Director of the School of Natural Resource Sciences.

Two of the seven department chairs in the CAFSNR are interim. Doing a search now for the ABEN position, but not yet for the ANSC.

Interim Provost, Ken Grafton (former VP of Ag Affairs), stepped down in November 2019. We now have another interim provost in place, Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald, Dean of the College of Human Sciences and Education, who has agreed to act as Interim Provost.

Funding

July 1, 2019 started the new biennium and marked the end of a legislative session, which resulted in positive enhancements to our budgets.

- Added funds for the Agribiome initiative for the ND Ag Experiment station ($1.16 M in ongoing funding). This will allow us to hire two scientists and two technicians in Microbiological Sciences to support this effort.
- Monies for a salary adjustment package for the biennium (2% in year 1 and 2.5% in year 2) and includes monies for the state to continue to pay the premium for the health insurance package for our employees.
- Provided $40 million for the construction of the new Ag Products Development Center (replacement of Harris Hall and the Meats Laboratory) with a requirement for $20 million in fundraising to complete the project. The project is estimated to cost $60 million.

Enrollments

University is down overall 13,173 this Fall, down from its peak of 17,643 in 2014. The number of credits required to graduate with a BS at NDSU was reduced to 120. Corresponding the decrease in credits required for a degree, the number of graduations in 2014 was the highest at 2969. Compared to 2019 when enrollment was greatest, the number of graduates was 3266. As a result of the decrease in enrollments, the university budget has been reduced by $5.5M. We've had a volunteer separation incentive program (VSIP) this fall to help deal with these budget declines.

SNRS update

26 tenured faculty. Recently gained a spousal hire in entomology.

Tuition return model for MNRM degree. Will move degree to entirely online. 70% tuition returned to department

All degrees now all fall under one degree in NRM with tracts in Soils, Range, NRM, and a new BS tract in Entomology. Enrollment is up slightly to 171 (69 graduate and 102 undergraduate). Last year had one of the highest number of degrees granted at 47.