Planning is underway for our All-SNR Assembly in August. Please mark your calendars for the morning of Monday, August 16. Details will follow in the next month or so. In the meantime, enjoy the summer.

**Key Outcomes of SNR’s Comprehensive Review**

The response to the five-year external review team’s report has been finalized. Copies were distributed to IANR and to the College of Arts and Sciences administration. Electronic copies will be distributed to SNR faculty and staff and to our External Advisory Committee.

We received the review team’s report in November. The formal process of responding to the review team’s comments and recommendations began in December. I shared a draft response with members of the SNR administrative team, coordinators, faculty area leaders, and center directors. Following feedback from each of these groups, a near-final draft was provided to IANR and CAS administration. At their suggestion, I added an executive summary and a timetable for implementing recommendations. Progress towards implementing these recommendations will be a topic of discussion with the deans during my annual unit planning session beginning in 2011. These recommendations and our implementation plan will be reflected in my personal goals and in our unit goals for 2011.

Some of the key issues and recommendations that SNR will be addressing in the years ahead call for us to:

- Assess and redistribute faculty FTE to better respond to current and future needs and priorities in research, teaching, and extension. The current FTE distribution reflects the times when the positions were created—in the vast majority of cases, long before the formation of SNR.
- Increase engagement of stakeholders in SNR’s research, teaching, and extension programs.
- Improve the definition of responsibilities and expectations of our external advisory committee and meet with them semi-annually, including, when appropriate, faculty members and the SNR administrative team.
- Develop and apply a new model for extension programs in SNR that will support the needs of Extension and its clientele. This effort will require greater interactions with extension personnel in other IANR departments and at the research and extension centers.
- Complete an evaluation of Conservation and Survey staff and services and the needs of clientele to determine how we can address these needs given diminishing resources and university priorities.
- Pursue opportunities to acquire additional space to accommodate the growth of SNR. Space needs include labs, offices, and classrooms. The ultimate goal is to construct an addition to Hardin Hall with support from one or more donors.
- Develop a new undergraduate major in Applied Climate Science.
- Increase collaboration on climate and water issues with other IANR and UNL units in areas of research and education.
- Prioritize future faculty positions in light of pending retirements and future needs to address the current and emerging issues in natural resources and environmental science.
- Seek participation from faculty outside of SNR to strengthen and expand the Human Dimensions area to provide more opportunities for student education and to be more competitive for federal research grants.
- Further integrate the Geography program into SNR, and increase its visibility to internal and external audiences.
• Encourage a strategic planning process for SNR-based centers, and integrate the centers more fully into SNR's teaching, research, extension, and survey missions.
• Encourage the Coop Unit to more fully engage faculty across campus in interdisciplinary research activities.
• Address safety and security concerns raised by students.
• Improve communication between faculty, staff, and students and SNR administration.

IANR Vice Chancellor/NU Vice President Search Update

Interviews for four candidates for the IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor and NU Vice President position were conducted during the past several weeks. The candidates that reached the short list stage and interviewed for this position were Cheng-i Wei, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Maryland-College Park; Cameron Hackney, Dean of the Davis College of Agriculture, and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, West Virginia University; Ken Grafton, Dean, College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources, and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University; and Ronnie Green, Director, Global Technical Services, Pfizer Animal Health. An intense interview schedule over a three-day period was held for each of the candidates. In addition to meetings that I attended as a member of the search committee and as IANR unit head, I was able to attend each of the seminars. I accompanied two of the candidates, Ken Grafton and Ronnie Green, on trips to the West Central and Panhandle Research and Extension Centers, respectively, to meet with stakeholders. My time with the candidates was well spent, as it gave me the opportunity to get to know each of the candidates and to tell them about the School of Natural Resources. The search committee had an excellent meeting with Chancellor Perlman and President Milliken following the interview process.

As you have no doubt read by now, Chancellor Perlman and President Milliken were successful in recruiting Ronnie Green as the new IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor and NU Vice President. Dr. Green said in a University of Nebraska press release that he saw this position "as a phenomenal opportunity to serve the people of the state of Nebraska and beyond. The global possibilities for the Institute at this time in its history are remarkable. The Global Water for Food Institute and Nebraska Innovation Campus are two noteworthy projects that will make a lasting positive contribution to the state and the world. The opportunity to be a part of those initiatives as well as to continue to evolve the important research and outreach of the university is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to help transform our world." I plan to schedule a meeting with Dr. Green to discuss SNR when he assumes his new position on July 19 and will also invite him to our All SNR Fall Assembly in August.

Status of Faculty Searches

We continue to work towards filling the aquatic ecologist/limnologist faculty position in SNR. We will likely be bringing in a fourth candidate in the near future for an interview. Negotiations with the top candidates from the initial round of interviews were not successful. We are fortunate to have a very strong pool of candidates for the position so I continue to be optimistic that we will ultimately be successful in hiring an excellent candidate for this critical faculty position.

The search for the Director for the Water Center has been suspended temporarily until it is determined how the Water Center will relate structurally to the Global Water for Food Institute. This decision was made by Chancellor Perlman and others. It will also be important to fully engage the new IANR Vice Chancellor in these discussions once he arrives on campus.

Changes to the SNR Bylaws

I will be working with Christine Steggs this summer on a number of changes to the SNR Bylaws. These changes are the result of discussions during the planning sessions associated with the five-year review process, changes in administrative structure, and the growth that SNR has experienced since the last changes in the Bylaws in 2005. Following completion of the draft document, I will be sharing it with the administrative team, faculty area leaders and the Faculty Advisory Committee. The majority of the revisions will be associated with changes in SNR committees, the incorporation of the Geography program into the document, and various procedural changes. I expect to have the document ready for discussion by the faculty in August.
**Renovation Plans for Hardin Hall Auditorium**

We are moving forward with plans to renovate the auditorium this summer. We have avoided scheduling events in the auditorium from late May to early July. We hope to complete most of the work then, although some of the renovations will likely continue into late July and early August.

Funds available for renovation are limited. Renovations to the auditorium will be restricted to the addition of power outlets along the outside rows of benches, installation of safety rails on the aisles, the purchase of new steps for stage access, sanding and refinishing the stage, and painting the back and side walls of the stage area. We will also be removing most of the curtains on the stage, which have been in place since the building was completed in the early 1960s. Thanks to IANR for providing most of the funding for these renovations. We are still looking for funding to do an audit of the sound system in the auditorium and other improvements such as the replacement of lights.

**Kudos to Students**

Emica Diep and Maddie McAlister were first and second place award winners, respectively, at the National Competition for the EnvironMentors Program. This is the second consecutive year that our chapter, under the leadership of Dave Gosselin, has taken first place. Congratulations to both of these young women. Their mentors were Sara Yendra and Katie Delashmött (Emica) and Mary Bomberger Brown (Maddie).

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The entire Nebraska EnvironMentors delegation paused for a photo after the awards ceremony. Students, front row, left to right, are Maddie McAlister, Jamie Huynh, and Emica Diep. Accompanying the students were, back row from left, Sara Yendra, UNL Environmental Studies academic advisor, and Le Nguyen, UNL Upward Bound mentoring coordinator.
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Kelly Lynn Kappen, a senior Fisheries and Wildlife major, was elected to the Alpha of Nebraska Chapter (UNL) of Phi Beta Kappa.

Joseph Msanne has received the Milton Mohr Fellowship for the 2010-2011 academic year. Joseph is advised by Tala Awada.

Saadia Bihmidine has received a UNL Graduate Fellowship from Graduate Studies in recognition of her outstanding academic performance and scholarship potential. Saadia is also advised by Tala Awada.

Congratulations to these outstanding students.
Proposals Awarded and Submitted

Faculty, staff and students were awarded grants totaling $438,034 in May. Congratulations to Cindy Larson-Miller, Kyle Hoagland, Craig Allen, Drew Tyre, Paul Hanson, Matt Joeckel, Mark Pegg, Steve Hu, Mark Kuzila, Bob Oglesby, and Paul Merani. The total funding awarded January through May 2010 is $2,992,400.

Faculty and staff submitting grant proposals in May were Dan Snow, Shashi Verma, Jim Merchant, Mike Hayes, Ed Harvey, Cody Knutson, Deborah Bathke, Mark Svoboda, Martha Shulski, Jozsef Szilagyi, Xinhua Zhou, Gene Guan, Sunil Narumalani, Dave Wedin, and Rusty Low. This represents an impressive group of proposals to many funding agencies. The total amount for grant proposals submitted in May was $3,449,665. Good luck with your submissions! The total for proposals submitted from January through May was $25,383,004.

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