Agenda Item 1: Minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item 2: Announcements and Updates

Crystal Sparks and Tamla Blunt, committee co-chairs, gave an update on the DEI Committee. The committee has been working on a DEI blueprint for AgBio and bylaws for committee. Several subcommittees were created: Cultivation (organizes trainings), Department Reform (reviewing current dept. policies for DEI issues), and Recruitment (improving recruitment for dept.). The committee also attended several trainings throughout the year and will sponsor implicit bias training for the department in October.

Jan Leach requested to add Alejandra Huerta as a faculty affiliate. Dr. Huerta is an assistant professor at North Carolina State and an active member of Jacob Sharkey’s committee. McKay moved to accept her, Stewart seconded, and the motion passed.

Jan Leach and Robyn Roberts requested to add Kellye Eversole as a faculty affiliate. Kellye will work with Robyn’s mentoring program as a policy advisor and will develop online courses in science policy for the department. Jahn moved, Brown seconded, and the motion passed.

Amy Charkowski discussed possible dates for the faculty retreat in August. Matt Camper mentioned that RAM welcome will be that week, and we should check for conflicts.

Amy Charkowski gave an update on promotion and tenure. The applications for Stewart, Trivedi, and Nachappa have been approved at the Provost level and will move forward. Amy also celebrated Jan Leach’s nomination to the National Academy of Sciences and John McKay’s Scholarship Impact Award.

Agenda Item 3: CCAF promotion guidelines

Courtney Jahn gave an overview of the special meeting held on this topic in April; will discuss further at May meeting.
Agenda Item 4: Proposed delivery of Pest Management MS through CSU Online

Todd Gaines gave an update on this proposal, which the Graduate Program Committee has been working on. Todd has shared a list of courses which could be adapted to an online format. Next step is to develop a proposal and send to the CAS curriculum committee; we could offer these courses starting in Spring 2022 depending on how long the approval process takes. Norton moved that Todd continue to develop this proposal and submit for approval. Brown seconded and motion passed.

Agenda Item 5: Hiring plan update

We had a request from the Dean’s office that we get them a hiring plan in four weeks that matches the College’s strategic plan. Amy will forward the plan and have times to talk about it in (2) 1-hour discussion sessions the week of May 10.

Ruth Hufbauer shared the job description for the CCAF Entomology Instructor position that will be filled this fall. Faculty discussed it and made a change to the percent effort, eliminating the research component. This position will be submitted for approval in TMS early next week.

Agenda Item 6: Advisory Board update

Amy has spoken with the executive committee about priorities: introduce new faculty and new programs, get the Board’s advice on rebuilding after retirements, and sharing research findings.

Agenda Item 7: Items from the floor

Todd: finalist interviews for the Vice President of Diversity will be the week of May 24. Look for announcements mid-May.

Jane: new students looking for classes 500 and below. Is there a list of what classes are actually being taught?

Vamsi: only three seminar speakers for fall so far; please send him more names. Fall will be virtual, don’t know about spring. Jane will ask some fungal people. Jan will contact Kellye Eversole to see if she’s interested.

Jane: there is a fungal biology group that meets regularly; let her know if you want to attend

Paul Ode: in light of the recent emails from CSU regarding Covid guidelines for fall, what does this mean for large classes (100-150 students)? Amy: No more social distancing in classrooms. Default is for all classes to be in person.