

## **ALEC International Agriculture Program Meeting Notes (9-23-16):**

Present: Kirk Edney, Manuel Pina Jr., Robert Strong, Cathryn Clement, Julie Harlin, Tracy Rutherford, Gary Wingenbach, Gary Briers, Clarice Fulton, Breanna Watkins

- **IDAG Teaching Budget** (IDAG Minor, UG only)
  - FY2016-2017 is \$2000
  - Purpose: Monies used for instructional enhancement purposes (IDAG Minor Courses and/or Field Experiences). Examples of permissible expenditures from these funds include equipment, software, equipment maintenance and repair, and the modification of specialized instructional facilities. Expenditures may also include course related instructional materials and supplies, invited speakers or guest lecturers, services, training, professional development that directly supports and enhances the course development and/or delivery of instruction, furnishings, graders providing timely and relevant feedback, and salaries and fringe benefits associated with the direct support of instructional enhancement activities (excluding teaching salaries).
  - Faculty submit course request for use of funds (see attached FY17 IDAG Teaching Budget)
  - Need exists to clarify rules for prioritizing use if projected overspending
  
- **ALEC study abroad programs** (see ALEC Handout)
  - Updated “short” program info sheet sent to Clement/Fulton/etc.
  - Included ALEC 685 info where appropriate; advertised widely, several times, among all ALEC graduate students
  - Possible use of “ALEC 380” with multiple locations so students can “retake” course at new locations (i.e., study abroad locations)
  
- **ALEC courses/focus areas**
  - ALED/AGCJ / Extension (Poland)
  - Current and future program leaders
    - Costa Rica: Wingenbach (2017), Harlin (201x), Moore (201x)
    - Mexico: Edney/Briers (2017)
    - Greece: Preston-Cunningham (2017)
    - Guatemala: possibly Wingenbach in 2018
    - Haiti: possibly Pina/Briers in 2018, or later
    - Namibia: Wingenbach, Rutherford, Redwine (2017)
    - Poland: Mazurkiewicz (2017)
    - Others:
      - Belize: R. Strong
      - Cuba: Wingenbach, Rosson & Boadu (AGEC)
  
- **International research opportunities:**
  - Ideas: Brazil, Belize, Cuba funding opportunities may develop; watch USDA wire
  
- **Grant/Contracts:**
  - ALEC faculty develop learning loops (i.e., ideation, pre-proposal, and proposal to outcome [awarded or rejected]; “open sharing” of all processes can flatten the ALEC faculty learning curve and may produce more departmental success, improved collegiality, and a positive workplace climate
    - Similar learning loops can be achieved in teaching, research, & service processes