

**Submitted Questions for Administrators:** The board condensed submitted questions for discussion with the administrators. The questions and administration responses are listed below.

1. *Question:* How will the University decision to outsource IT affect AgriLife in general?

*Response:* The IT changes will have a minimal impact on Texas A&M AgriLife. Most of the changes will impact the main campus and engineering.

2. *Question:* What opportunities do we see at the Agency level to request large-scale grant projects that allow specialists and program specialists to submit internal competitive proposals for participation?

Administration will take this under consideration. Someone could specifically be assigned to strategically process grants and put teams together.

3. *Question:* What is the possibility of an AgriLife Extension Development Foundation, similar to the 4-H Foundation or the A&M Foundation, being developed?

*Response:* Darin Payne of the Texas A&M Foundation has been assigned to Texas AgriLife Extension to direct development work. Endowed programs are a good option for Texas AgriLife Extension.

4. *Question:* Is there a policy in place to reward program specialists for obtaining a Ph.D.? There is one for agents who obtain a M.S. or Ph.D.

*Response:* Administrators will take this under consideration. Department units currently handle this individually.

5. *Question:* What are we doing to help train & mentor graduate students to fill Extension positions, especially District Centers (specialists and program specialists). How is the administration addressing this topic? It is recommended that support of graduate assistantships could aid in training graduate students to fill these positions.

*Response:* Administration is currently working on a plan to fund some graduate assistants likely in a proposal/request format.

6. *Question:* How can we enhance the communications/support between specialists/program specialists and RPLs, especially on campus?

Dr. Ballabina has initiated efforts with RPLs to build relationships and improve communications with county agents and specialists. Specialists should feel free to contact RPLs by phone or email. Where most districts involve specialists directly in annual program planning and coordination meetings, campus specialists may be the missing link. Efforts will be made to let campus specialists know about district planning conferences and to let associate department heads know of the schedules. Dr. Ballabina suggested that RPLs should become members of TESA and be invited to the TESA annual meetings (5/2 email).