

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Nov. 2, 2009  
A121 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Buongiorno, Cary, Craven, Drake, Field, Gower, Gunther, Guries, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Lorimer, Lutz, Nack, Peery, Radeloff, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Scott, Townsend, Van Deelen

Absent: Foster, Mladenoff, Ozdogan, Pidgeon, Ray, Samuel, Watt  
Sabbatical: Langston

Professor Karasov called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. Item 8 was added to the agenda (below). The minutes of the Sept. 2 meeting were approved (Buongiorno/Drake) with the clarification in item 5 that Professor Field be recorded as opposed to elimination of the Recreation Resources Management major. The minutes of the Oct. 5, 2009 meeting were approved (Buongiorno/Drake).

2. Reports and Announcements

- a. **Guries named interim Associate Dean.** The Chair congratulated Professor Guries on his new leadership and noted that in light of his new duties in the Dean's Office, he has agreed to be replaced as chair of the Space Committee and member of the Salary/Merit Committee.
- b. **Memorial for Ron Giese.** The Chair reminded the faculty of Professor Giese's death a couple weeks earlier and asked those with comments for the resolution to forward them to Professors Stier, Lorimer, and Guries, who are drafting a memorial resolution. Professor Buongiorno proposed collecting donations from faculty, alumni, and other memorial donors for a student scholarship. Professor Gower reported that Professor Stier has been working with the family on the details of such an award. The Chair reported that Janine Veto, the Department's contact at the UW Foundation, has already been in touch with the family as well. Lorimer proposed holding the next newsletter until the details of the scholarship fund are established.
- c. **Partners in Giving.** The Chair reminded the Department that Ms. Ballentine is collecting contributions this year, and he encouraged the faculty to be involved, even at small amounts.
- d. **Faculty liaison for newsletter.** The Chair solicited a volunteer to replace Professor Guries as newsletter liaison with Ms. Miron. For now, he and Professor Rickenbach will work with her.
- e. **Faculty appointments with undergraduates.** Ms. Rodock reported a vigorous response for the Department during the majors fair in October, approximately 36 in total, with about 12 interested in forestry and others interested in wildlife ecology or both. Professor Townsend volunteered to learn more about the program to assist with future undergraduate advising.
- f. **Russell Labs IT update.** Mr. Gunther encouraged contacts to use the services of not only Mr. DeZonia, but Mr. Wiedenhoft and Mr. Hoey on the IT staff as well. The staff is not ready for major website revamps at the moment, but Hoey can help with immediate updates. Townsend noted that Kingdon has provided informal support and asked for clarification about which tasks a lab is responsible to cover and which are covered by the Russell staff. The Chair plans to have more directions about websites to provide at the next meeting.

3. Old Business

- a. **Fund 150 & 133 cost returns.** The Chair reported that CALS has not responded yet on the upcoming cost returns.
- b. **Pandemic flu Instruction Continuity Plan.** The Chair passed out laminated cards, personalized for each member of the department, on who will call them and whom they will call in the event of a pandemic emergency.
- c. **New vehicle use policy.** The Chair referred to instructions which he had e-mailed Oct. 26. He displayed one of the clipboards which are now kept in the Department office. Ms. Ballentine

can issue keys to faculty members who don't yet have one for after-hours access to the office. Users who don't have keys may return the clipboard to the mail room after hours.

- d. **Instructor for FWE 652, Spring 2010.** The Chair noted the progress in collecting names for replacement instructors, which he will contact upon receipt of Professor Buongiorno's written notice of retirement. Professor Lorimer has given Ms. Timme a draft position vacancy listing.
- e. **Strategic planning in the Department.** Professor Rickenbach said the forest ecology group discussed impending instruction needs in light of Buongiorno's retirement, Guries' appointment in CALS (FWE 100), Field's anticipated retirement, and upcoming course modifications. They also discussed development of an intellectually oriented forestry colloquium. The Chair anticipates an analog meeting on some wildlife considerations as well, and he reminded the faculty to consider strategic planning; the CALS Academic Planning Council (APC) intends to use this year, when new hires are on hold, to encourage departments to discuss hiring processes. The Dean's Office can provide facilitation and Dean Goldman has offered to meet with the Department if desired. The Chair proposed holding a strategizing retreat on the Martin Luther King Holiday, Jan. 18, the day prior to the start of classes. The faculty briefly discussed the feedback which the APC has given on the Department's requests for new faculty positions. Rickenbach noted that fragments of the Department's requests appear in other documents; they are not lost.

#### 4. New Business

##### a. **Undergraduate Programs Committee.**

1. **Internship and Special Problems courses.** Professor Lorimer referred to the document distributed with the agenda, "Departmental Internship Policies". With CALS relinquishing control of the FWE 399 coordinative internship, the Committee recommends that the Department no longer use FWE 299 or 699 as substitutes for internships. Professor Field raised an issue regarding summer "internships" in, e.g., private industry, noting that students who are on internships should register for at least one credit during the summer. The faculty discussed whether some students employed in summer may be in an employee rather than intern status. Field noted that internships should have learning objectives, and thus it would be appropriate to require concurrent registration. Lorimer walked through the forms developed for internship tracking and approval. The Chair will bring a version to the faculty later for final approval.

2. **AP Biology credits.** The Committee noted that the Department has excused students who received a high school Advanced Placement course grade of 4 or 5 from the first semester of the introductory biological science requirement, and then awarded credit upon passing the second semester course. The Committee asked whether the faculty wanted to strengthen the requirement of passing the second semester course to require instead an A or B.

**Motion (Lorimer/Berkelman) passed** on a voice vote that, for a student earning Advanced Placement credit in biology, the Department waive the requirement to take the first introductory course in the biology sequence as long as the student passes the second-semester biology course with at least a D.

3. **Course substitutions and waivers.** Professor Lorimer noted that the two former departments, as well as individual faculty members, handled course substitutions and waivers differently. He referred to a handout with examples of past waiver request situations which the Committee determined the Department should uniformly reject. CALS requires that students identify reasonably close substitute courses rather than receive outright course waivers.

3. **Reformatting of FWE 375.** Professor Lorimer noted that remote sensing courses, historically offered as three 1-credit modules, have recently been taught as one 3-credit 375 special topics course. The Committee supports changing **FWE 301** into a permanent environmental remote sensing course and introducing **FWE 302: Intermediate Environmental Remote Sensing**. The Institute for Environmental Studies, the primary department on the cross-listed 301 and 302 courses, supports these changes.

The Committee further recommends a change in the course description for **FWE 651**, dropping the Genetics 466 prerequisite to open it up to more students. In the Forest Science major, the prerequisite usually precluded students in the conservation track from taking this course. The instructor is reducing the genetics content of FWE 651, but graduate students intensely interested in genetics will be able to take the course that Professor Peery is developing. **Motion (Townsend/Craven) passed** on a voice vote to approve the Committee's recommendations for changes to all three courses: FWE 301, 302 and 651.

b. **Graduate Programs Committee**

1. **Recruitment and signing bonuses.** Biological Sciences Flex Funds will be distributed to incoming students via a process similar to last year's. Flexible funding for recruiting is also available through the Graduate School. The Chair announced that about \$600 is available to each interested faculty member to bring a potential student to campus for recruitment; Ms. Rodock will distribute the application form by e-mail.
  2. **Form for grad student files.** For mutual protection and assurance, the Committee—and individual students themselves—have requested a standard list of course requirements which both student and adviser agree upon and sign. Students will submit this form, available soon, to Ms. Rodock, who will file them in each student's folder.
5. **Leopold Seminar Planning Committee.** Professors Craven and Drake responded to the Chair's request for volunteers to solicit suggestions, make final selections, and submit funding proposals (signed by the Chair) to the UW Lectures Committee, in support of the annual spring semester Leopold Lecture. Ms. Miron will support the committee logistically. The faculty advised that the choice of Leopold lecturers usually alternates between the Department's wildlife and forestry sides, and they recommended coordination with lectures scheduled by Zoology, Botany, Wisconsin Ecology, and other departments. The faculty identified potential speakers of broad interest, including author Richard Louv (See item 6, below).
  6. **First Aid/CPR training for grad students.** Professor Ribic noted that US Geological Survey has expressed concern that all students involved in field work have First Aid training including cardiopulmonary resuscitation. She will try to arrange for such a class in spring. Faculty noted that the UW Hoofers Club also offers wilderness first-aid training. Professor Craven noted that one suggestion for a Leopold lecturer was Peter Kummerfeldt, who speaks on wilderness survival and would likely agree to instruct a class in conjunction with the lecture.
  7. **WBI Search Committee (addition to agenda.)** Professor Rickenbach stated that the CALS Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative is creating 9 or 10 new positions housed in departments in three emphasis areas: Microbial, Engineering, and Sustainability Science, which examines economic and social aspects of bioenergy. The Dean's Office has asked the Department to appoint an ecologist to serve on the search committee for these positions, which does not guarantee that they'll place any of the hires in FWE in the end. Professor Gower volunteered to serve on the WBI search committee.
  8. **Proposal for statistics workshop with WDNR.** The Chair stated that Karl Martin, chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Research section at the Department of Natural Resources, asked the Department's sponsorship of a two-day statistical workshop this winter to serve DNR research & staff specialists from management programs, as well as FWE students. The DNR is willing to pay the department to organize and run this workshop. Faculty discussed past courses they've offered for the DNR and other state agencies, potential presenters and hands-on instructors. The Chair will follow up on the request to obtain more detailed information about the DNR's needs.
  9. Adjourned 2:23 p.m.