

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Dec. 7, 2009  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Buongiorno, Cary, Craven, Drake, Field, Foster, Gower, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Townsend

Absent: Guries, Ray, Van Deelen, Watt

Sabbatical: Langston

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

1. Agenda and minutes. The minutes of the Nov. 2 meeting were approved (Field/Lutz) with the clarification in item 2 that the Advanced Placement biology course is substituted rather than waived, and that this does not apply to the Biocore requirement, and secondly that FWE 302 is a course change rather than course addition.

2. Reports and Announcements

- a. **Graduate admissions.** Ms. Rodock referred to an e-mail that she had sent earlier, reminding the faculty of changes to graduate admissions policies. She announced a new form for faculty who are bringing students to campus for recruitment (other than terminal M.S. candidates). She reminded the faculty that the graduate affairs committee has the ability to provide signing bonuses to help with strategic recruiting and invited them to encourage applicants to send materials to her for compilation and presenting to the faculty. She reiterated the Graduate School's changed policy which now allows students to take 12 credits during the summer session and asked the faculty to have undergrads submit SPAC [Scholastic Policies and Actions Committee] forms via her to CALS, to allow her to follow up when they make substitutions to courses on their DARS [Degree Audit Reporting System] reports.
- b. **Grad Programs Committee.** No report.
- c. **Assignment of undergraduates to advisers.** Dr. Berkelman described the undergraduate admissions process currently and the changes which the committee proposes. Wildlife professors will have 10 to 15 advisees rather than up to 20 as before. Ms. Rodock said she will likewise assign incoming students to Forestry faculty as appears appropriate. They invited faculty to contact them with any questions about unrecognized names on their advisee lists.
- d. **Use of Reading Room.** After thanking Professors Craven, Guries and Bowe and John Cary for their work in clearing and creating the new Departmental meeting space in Room 216, the Chair informed the faculty of remaining improvements planned for this rededicated "Reading Room." Professor Craven recommended that the room remain unavailable to seminars and uses by unsupervised students, such as makeup exams, but rather be reserved for the highest levels of use, such as oral exams, defenses, and meetings with parents of students and of the whole faculty. Refreshments are allowable. The goal is to protect investment in a room funded not by public funds, but private donations to the Department's Schorger account. Craven met with the family, who agreed to expand the interpretation of the endowment to include purchase of electronics and furniture, rather than just the purchase of books. The faculty discussed scheduling and agreed not to open the room for other departments' use. Chair directed any further questions about use of rooms to Professor Mladenoff, as new chair of Space and Facilities Committee.
- e. **Report from IT Committee.** Professor Radeloff reported that a building-wide IT committee has formed to provide input and feedback to the IT Staff.
- f. **Financial matters.** The Chair noted that Ms. Jenkins is transferring to another position in the College of Engineering and that Ms. Webster will make a presentation on electronic submission of travel expense reimbursement at the next meeting. The Chair reminded those who must

- complete CRIS [Current Research Information System] reports of the Jan. 4 deadline. Ms. Rodock reminded faculty to inform staff early of intent to submit grant proposals.
- g. **Upcoming presentations.** Professor Gower reminded the faculty of a senior landowner presentation at 3 p.m. Wed., Dec. 16. Professor Townsend announced presentations of remote sensing ecosystem analyses of the Madison area at 10 a.m. Dec. 18 in Room A121; he anticipates attendance by City officials as well. Professor Craven announced that the committee has abandoned attempts to arrange for Richard Louv to deliver the next Leopold lecture, pursuing alternative speakers instead.
  - h. **RA salary increase.** The Chair announced that the Graduate Academic Planning Committee has recommended a 1% salary increase for research assistants next year, unless a potential unionization of RAs yields a different result.
3. Old Business
- a. **Fund 150 & 133 cost returns.** The Chair followed up on his earlier e-mail on changes in CALS procedures for indirect cost returns, which have resulted in the Department receiving less money. The College has indicated that this is a one-time event due to payment of past commitments for faculty retention and startup packages. He and Professor Rickenbach prioritized devoting money to the water system in basement, with other items to be considered in the event more money arrives. The faculty discussed the ongoing maintenance of the water system. The Chair suggested that a research associate working with him include it within his/her duties. Professor Kruger volunteered to head up a group looking into water system options.
  - b. **Update on instructor for FWE 652, Spring 2010.** Professor Lorimer indicated that position vacancy notice has been released and being advertised in surrounding states. The deadline is Dec. 10, with application reviews late this week or early next week. If no one qualified to teach is identified, the course may be postponed. Two internal Ph.D. candidates have applied thus far. The position will pay approximately \$4,500.
  - e. **Strategic planning in the Department.** Discussion postponed.
4. New Business
- a. **Editorial Office for Journal of Environmental History.** The Chair distributed an excerpt of an e-mail from the interim director of the Nelson Institute to Interim Dean Goldman, which requests support for taking on the editorship for the journal Environmental History. He said that the Dean noted that CALS historically has not provided support for journal editorships and solicited the Department's evaluation of the journal. The faculty discussed the structure of journal financing and the tradition of volunteer editing, the low number of publications from the Department in this journal, and the teaching adjustment requested in point 2 of the handout.
  - b. **Dec. 17 meeting with Interim Dean Irwin Goldman.** The Chair reminded the faculty of the noon event and encouraged participation. The Chair invited him to present some of the Dean's Office's ideas on the Department's potential role in providing expertise in ecology and environmental sciences on the campus. Townsend suggested the Department invite research staff to attend that meeting as well as regular department meetings. The faculty agreed that the meeting will not include food and will be open to members of the department beyond the faculty.
  - c. **Next Department meeting.** The next meeting may be Feb. 1; the Chair will confirm this at end of the Dec. 17 meeting with the Dean.
9. Adjourned 1:55 p.m.