



Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology
Minutes of the Department Faculty Meeting
March 14, 2018

Present: Berkelman, Bowe (remotely), Cole, Drake, Jones, Johnston, Kruger, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Van Deelen

Meeting called to order by Rickenbach (Chair) 1:30 pm in A216 Russell.

1. Welcome
2. **Approval of February faculty meeting minutes** –Berkelman/Rissman moved/seconded, unanimously approved.
3. **Reports and announcements**

Wipperfurth: The HVAC project is progressing on the 4th floor. The next floors on the schedule will be the 2nd and 1st floors. The first step is abatement which takes about 1 day with ceiling tiles being taken down and ducts cleaned. There will be a summer class taught in room A228 and so we need to take that into consideration when planning. There is a google doc available for folks that are affected by the remodel to report problems/issues. Wipperfurth also reported that the SWAP area in the basement will be moving sometime soon.

Rodock: Spring syllabi were required to be submitted and the deadline has already passed. There are 3 items that need to be on each syllabi: 1. Number of credits; 2. How the number of credits and the amount of time required meet federal requirements; and 3. The learning objectives of the class. There is Provost Office training available for writing syllabi and learning objectives. We could have someone come to one of our future faculty meetings if there is interest. The syllabi have to be sent to a CALS syllabus email address that Rodock can supply.

Rickenbach: Nominations are due soon for all spring grad awards. Mike Samuel sent emails about the different awards available. Monika Shea won a 2018 Forest Grad Student Travel Award. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame will be inducting George Meyer and William Schorger at an upcoming event. If you would like more information, please see Rickenbach.

4. **Old Business**

- 4.1 **Forest Ecology Position** – Sarah Hart has been verbally offered the position. She has asked about a spousal hire for her partner. She and her partner will be coming to Madison in early April for a visit.

- 4.2 **CALS redesign, department structure**

Rickenbach summarized the document that had been sent earlier from the Dean's office. This document discussed a timeline for the redesign and how departments were to go about exploring options. Rickenbach will need 2-4 additional faculty members to assist him with meeting with potential partners. He thinks this process will take 5-10 years to shake out, including actual physical moves by departments and administrative changes.

Scenarios that Mark currently knows are on the table:

These would all be collaborations and not mergers of departments.

Ento ↔ F&WE ↔ PP

Pro: both Ento and F&WE have ecologists and they could partner for future faculty hires in this regard.

Ento ↔ F&WE ↔ C&ES

Pro: This would add the human dimensions of wildlife and would be an opportunity for a global health degree offering.

Soils ↔ F&WE

Pro: Offer of a physical sciences degree. Toxicology/Environmental Sciences angle.

Agronomy ↔ PP ↔ BSE ↔ Soil Sciences ↔ F&WE

Pro: This would be a very big collaborative group and could perhaps fit under “Environmental and Ecosystems Science” title.

Other suggestions:

PP ↔ Agronomy ↔ Horticulture ↔ F&WE

Soil Science ↔ Ento ↔ F&WE

Discussion: Agronomy – we already have some collaborations. Soils and BSE are physical sciences. We may have some things in common with BSE? Mark could have a conversation with Alfred Hartemink in Soil Science. Do our core interests overlap with any of these other departments? Are they units going to have any already existing synergy or is this “forced”? Why is CALS doing this? Rickenbach responded that it may be that there are too many majors in CALS and that more decisions need to be made locally and not at the College level. We already have a few faculty in each of the departments listed above that we collaborate with but we don’t know a lot of the other faculty. We are the only accredited department and we already combined several years ago – why can’t we just stay F&WE? The Chairs of each department will remain chairs with votes from executive committees for decisions. Won’t there be some moving of faculty from one department to another depending on the redesign?

David Drake, Eric Kruger, and Adena Rissman volunteered to help Mark Rickenbach explore the options for collaborations.

5. **New Business - none**

6. Move to Adjourn by unanimous agreement. Adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Donna Cole