

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Feb. 2, 2010  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Bowe, Field, Foster, Gower, Karasov (presiding), Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Ray, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Scott, Temple, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen, Webster

Absent: Berkelman, Cary, Craven, Drake, Guries, Kruger, Nack, Radeloff, Samuel, Watt

Sabbatical: Langston

Professor Karasov called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. Updates on FWE 652 and the grad travel fund were added to agenda. The minutes of the Dec. 7 meeting were approved (Field/Van Deelen).
2. Reports and Announcements
  - a. **Graduate fellowship application process.** Ms. Rodock described the application process for two Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships available through CALS. Because applications are limited to one per program, an internal competition may be necessary by Feb. 19, judged by an impartial ad hoc committee composed of faculty who don't have graduate students, and chaired by Drake. She will e-mail a reminder and explanation to the students.
  - b. **Information Technology.** The Chair distributed an information sheet provided by Mr. Gunther on options for obtaining IT support in Russell Labs.
  - c. **Distribution of donated materials.** Deferred until next meeting.
  - d. **E-reimbursement demonstration** (*addition to agenda*). Ms. Webster encouraged the faculty to attend the orientation session tomorrow at noon in A228 Russell Labs about the new on-line procedure for claiming travel expense reimbursement. She offered to schedule other small-group sessions upon request. She invited travelers to use computers set up in 237 and 290, where staff assistance will be available nearby. Announcing that the staff assisted in submitting two dozen grant proposals in the first two weeks of January, she encouraged the faculty to inform her well ahead of time of plans to submit fellowship or grant applications.
3. Old Business
  - a. **FWE 652 instructor.** To offer FWE 652 following Professor Buongiorno's retirement, Rickenbach reported that the Department changed the course number to 375 and reduced it from 4 to 2 credits to allow grad student Corey Halpin to serve as instructor. He reminded the faculty that this issue will persist until the Buongiorno faculty vacancy is filled. The course has 6 enrolled currently. The faculty discussed this course's importance in the curriculum.
  - b. **Student recruitment funds.** Ms. Rodock reported that the Department received just over \$6,000 for graduate student recruitment. After providing awards evenly through yesterday's deadline to each faculty member upon request, approximately \$2,400 remains to distribute on a first-come, first-served basis. This is separate pool from that which funds signing bonuses.
4. New Business
  - a. **Schorger materials proposal.** The Chair distributed a written proposal by emeritus Professor Temple to use the Schorger Reading Room Fund to scan and archive historic Schorger materials. Temple elaborated on the memo, explaining that the Department has the sole copy of much of Schorger's research notes and survey data. He proposed hiring a student hourly to digitize and archive the collection. The Chair noted that this is a relatively small request of the fund. With no objections, the Chair will authorize the expenditure.
  - b. **Instructional improvement grant.** The Chair announced that annual Instructional Laboratory Modernization requests are due March 26 to CALS and a week in advance to the Department.

The Department must submit a ranked list of items. Professor Lutz said he and John Cary had discussed a coordinated departmental request, e.g., updating the audio in A228 and purchasing radio transmitters for the management techniques course. Professor Townsend suggested updating CPUs in the A120 computer lab based on its increased, intensifying use. The Chair will involve the IT staff and Professor Radeloff in developing a proposal for A120. Professor Gower proposed purchasing large, mounted digital screens, for which the faculty discussed multiple instructional and conference uses.

- c. **Graduate requirements for Forestry M.S. and Ph.D. programs.** Professor Rickenbach noted that the 901 seminar, in which students present their research, is not offered this year. Rickenbach recommended that students who need 901 this semester as a professional development course discuss it with their advisers. The Graduate Programs Committee and the Forest Ecology Group have reviewed and recommended that the faculty approve the following change to our forestry M.S. and Ph.D. requirements:

**Motion (Rickenbach/Committee) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to require all Forestry students to complete an exit seminar on their completed thesis or dissertation, similar to what the Wildlife Ecology program currently does.

The Committee is considering requiring two 901 courses, possibly divided into modules over multiple years. The redesigned course would not include a student presentation, which would instead take place in the additional exit seminar. A potential entrance seminar is not part of this discussion.

- d. **Departmental seminars proposal.** Rickenbach distributed a memo proposing a FWE professional seminar series and asked that it be put on the next meeting's agenda. The faculty discussed the competition among seminars across campus and the need to carefully plan before approval.
- e. **Response regarding CALS curricular reorganization.** The Chair reminded the faculty that the College is working toward a single B.S. degree and that the proposal is following a timeline. The Department will likely send a letter to the CALS Curriculum Committee to explain how the change would affect the Forest Science and Wildlife Ecology programs. The Forest Science program has already discussed and determined a changed degree would still fit with the program. Berkelman, Van Deelen and Rodock are on a subcommittee that will scrutinize how new degree requirements would fit with the wildlife plan.
- f. **Annual balloting for chair preference** (*addition to agenda*). The Chair expressed willingness to continue in the position. He asked the faculty to return their preference ballots, which will be distributed in their mailboxes, to Laurie Ballentine in the Room 226.
- g. **Zoology terrestrial ecologist** (*addition to agenda*). Townsend announced that the Department of Zoology is interviewing candidates for a terrestrial ecologist position, a faculty member which that department intends to be active across campus. He listed the schedule of candidate presentations, which Chair had also e-mailed, and encouraged people to attend.

9. Adjourned 2:52 p.m. (Rickenbach/Townsend)