

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2010  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Allison, Berkelman, Bowe, Cary, Craven, Field, Foster, Gower, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ray, Rickenbach, Rodock, Scott, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen; Li

Absent: Drake, Guries, Nack, Ribic, Rissman, Samuel, Watt

Sabbatical: Langston

Professor Karasov called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair added discussion of the Leopold Lecture to the agenda and will table the proposal on departmental seminars. The minutes of the Feb. 2 meeting were approved (Rickenbach/Lorimer) with change in item 4.c. from “exist seminar” to “exit seminar.” The Chair distributed extra copies of the Department Personnel Report.
2. Reports and Announcements
  - a. **Introductions.** The Chair introduced Professor **Robert Ray**, who is returning to the Department from his term at the Dean’s Office, and Dr. **Bruce Allison**, adjunct assistant professor. Allison said he had received his M.S. and Ph.D. from the Department with Professor Guries as adviser and now operates a tree care company. He shared some of his publications and discussed his work with acoustic tomography to examine the condition of trees. He offered his collaboration to anyone in the department interested in these specializations. He also introduced honorary fellow **Li Li** from Harbin, China, who is working with him at the Forest Products Laboratory.
  - b. **Student Services.** Ms. Rodock reminded the faculty of the possibility to use a \$4,500 Biological Sciences Scholar award to provide “signing bonuses” as a grad student recruitment tool and explained the procedure for nominating an applicant. The Graduate Program Committee chairs propose offering \$1,500 awards to three applicants whom the Department would determine after the April 15 deadline. Other departments have also asked about FWE’s interest in participating in joint recruitment, for which the departments would request an additional \$5,000-\$10,000. The faculty did not express interest in joint recruitment at this time.
  - c. **Leopold Lecture.** Professor Craven announced that Shane Mahoney, Executive Director of Sustainable Development and Strategic Science, Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, St. John’s, Newfoundland, will be the featured speaker for this year’s Leopold Lecture 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 at the Ebling Symposium Center, and that fundraising for Mahoney’s travel is approximately three-fourths completed. The Department will probably provide ice cream and cookies in the Allen Gardens beforehand, broadcast the presentation via the Wisconsin DNR live network, and make the presentation accessible at UW–Stevens Point. He distributed some remaining souvenir pins from the 1987 centennial celebration of Aldo Leopold’s birth, which referenced the former building at 424 Science Dr. that originally housed the Department.
3. Old Business
  - a. **Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative (WBI) search update.** Professor Gower reminded the faculty that the CALS WBI has money for six to eight faculty positions at 50-percent appointments for about five years. The Search Committee will bring to campus six or eight “Tier 1” candidates in the focal areas of Microbiology, Engineering, and Sustainability (which could include a hire into Forest & Wildlife Ecology). He circulated résumés for Xiaodong Du from Iowa State, who will

- visit campus late next week and our Department specifically on Friday morning; Eric Nelson, who withdrew his application; Juan Pablo Sesmero from Nebraska, whom the Department of Ag and Applied Economics will host early next week; and Puneet Dwivedi, whom our Department will host. He circulated a tentative itinerary for Dwivedi, for whom he noted that Ag Econ has not expressed support. However, FWE is co-hosting Du, who will give a noon seminar Thursday at Ag Econ. The Dean must approve the Search Committee's choices for hires because CALS will ultimately pay the majority of the salaries. Gower said he has been in touch with Dean Guries through the hiring process, which has proceeded more speedily than the original two-year schedule had assumed. The Chair thanked Gower for the work he has put into the search.
- b. **Update on John Orrock.** The Chair updated the faculty on Zoology's interview with Assistant Professor John Orrock of Washington University, St. Louis, to fill a position which FWE had supported. Upon further reflection, Deans Goldman and Guries decided against allocating a position for him to work with FWE. Orrock and Professor Monica Turner in Zoology were both impressed by FWE's support. The Chair asked the faculty who know him to contact Orrock and encourage him to consider coming to the UW.
  - c. **Departmental seminar(s) proposal.** Tabled.
  - d. **CALS curricular reorganization update.** The Chair announced an All-College Meeting Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 3 p.m. at the Ebling Symposium Center in the Microbial Sciences Building to vote on the proposed change to a single baccalaureate degree in CALS. He thanked Lorimer, Craven, and Berkelman for their work on the undergraduate CALS curriculum and said he will write a letter this weekend expressing the Department's support for the change. He stressed the importance of attending, because such a degree change requires approval of more than 50 percent of the CALS faculty. The CALS Curriculum Committee's goal is to keep the meeting short. Ray recalled that the last all-college meeting was in 1988, also on curriculum. The College is looking into Skype or other remote options to facilitate greater participation. Townsend said he knows he cannot attend. The Chair said that, following approval, the next year will be devoted to the fine-tuning of realigning majors.
  - e. **Instructional Lab Modernization (ILM) requests.** The Chair reminded the faculty that ILM requests are due March 26. The last Department meeting identified three potential requests: funds to improve facilities for instruction in A121, A228 and the Schorger Reading Room, 216. Ray has agreed to coordinate the drafting of requests and the Chair offered to provide on request the instructions, form, and previous applications to use as models. Ray discussed criteria the CALS committee uses for approval, including instructional use and lack of major remodeling. He noted that he has moved to Room A147 which temporarily has Bloch's old phone number.
4. New Business
- a. **Department equipment distribution and borrowing.** Professor Radeloff announced that Forest Management alumnus Paul Muench, product manager for Ben Meadows Co. in Janesville, recently donated 61 items surplus equipment to the Department. Radeloff explained that the former Forest Ecology & Management Department had purchased equipment for instructional use in forestry classes. To make good use of and maintain it, he proposed listing equipment which people in the Department could check out by paying a fee to an existing 136 account. The fees would discourage long-term leasing or delays in returning equipment, and the resulting fund would pay for replacement of worn-out or obsolete items. Leasing for teaching purposes would take precedent. He volunteered to assign Shelley Schmidt in his lab to the administration of the check-out. The faculty discussed whether to combine the check-out of former wildlife and forestry equipment. Noting that Wildlife Ecology did not have a tradition of

lending equipment for non-instructional use, other than short-term, the faculty generally agreed to Radeloff's proposal for the forestry equipment.

- b. **Fire training.** Professor Bowe announced a Forestry Club-sponsored training on wildland fires March 13-14 and 20-21, equivalent to S-130, S190, and L180 trainings. The scheduled field day may involve an actual burn, weather permitting. Professor Field noted that these courses have given students an advantage in obtaining summer internships and other student positions.
- c. **Forest Ecology & Management department files.** Townsend noted that filing cabinets have appeared in Room B30 containing Forestry Department documents such as Travel Expense Reports from 2006. Ms. Timme will look into dispersal of the materials, which likely came from the former Forest Ecology and Management Room 120 office suite.

9. Adjourned 2:57 p.m. (Rickenbach/Field)