

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Sept. 13, 2010  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Cary, Craven, Drake, Field, Gower, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Langston, Lorimer, Lutz, Nack, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ray, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Robinson, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Serbin, Timme, Townsend, Webster

Absent: Foster, Guries, Mladenoff, Van Deelen, Watt

Professor Karasov called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the May 4 department meeting were approved (Rickenbach/Ray).
2. Reports and Announcements
  - a. **Overview of state of the department.** The Chair distributed a one-page summary of the Department which he had reviewed with the Dean, noting that the Department is doing more with increasingly stretched resources. The Department is the sixth-highest unit in the College in attracting funding. He related his conversation with the Dean concerning Departmental needs for funding, especially for instruction. He discussed new initiatives with the DNR, including the creation of a nucleus of research on climate change within the Department. He discussed space needs as a result of the Department's increased activity which might lead to requests for upgrading space in the basement and long-term prospects for a new building. He discussed committee work and the Extension program, told her to expect promotion packages for six faculty members from the Department, and queried how CALS might help the Department through a 20% turnover in faculty in the near future. From the CALS perspective, the Dean's Office has given the Department four new hires (Mladenoff, Peery, Pidgeon, Rissman), but CALS remains committed to hiring as many positions as possible through the APC process. Three considerations which strengthen a new position request are (1) building for the future for needs of undergrads, (2) prioritizing instruction, and (3) collecting as many partners around CALS to enhance the request. One example might be to link new FTEs to the cross-campus program for teaching ecology as part of the intro biology sequence coordinated by Teri Balsler in Soil Sciences. The Chair had also underlined the Department's information technology needs, which are a significant portion of the College's entire IT load.
  - b. **Department Committee structure.** The Chair displayed a table of Committee assignments proposed for 2010-11 and noted he is proposing few changes from last year. A new committee is the Development Committee, "to manage the wealth of our department and to bring in money, especially discretionary money." This Committee has already met once and will address an item later in the meeting. The Department will also fund an employee to serve the ad hoc web development committee in order to expedite improvements to the Department's website.
  - c. **Biological Sciences Flex Funds.** Ms. Rodock said about \$5,000 of the funding for the above-mentioned web development position will come partly from a \$14,000 graduate recruitment award. She encouraged the faculty to nominate potential students for flex fund awards and discussed the process for new graduates to apply for the Presidential Management Fellowship.
  - d. **Update on Financials.** Ms. Webster noted that Russell Labs has submitted 9 Hatch requests and reminded principal investigators who have Hatch funds with balances to plan now for spending all funding by October. She distributed and discussed a CALS Research Division schedule of

deadlines, a list of vendors not in compliance with State tax filing law, and a list of State of Wisconsin Ineligible Vendors not in compliance with HR and other requirements. Ms. Timme noted the College is partnering with Russell Labs in hiring a University Contract and Grants Specialist who will be located in Russell Labs and will assist with pre-award and post-award. As of Oct. 1, Hatch Grants will require a portion of faculty salary to generate salary savings which can cover tuition. The Chair noted that this creates more competition for Hatch Grants.

- e. **New building-wide committee to review needs for data center.** Mr. Gunther reiterated the two new committees: an Ad Hoc Web Committee and the building-wide Space Committee, which will be discussing options to increase data center space.

### 3. Old Business

- a. **Restructuring of forest science undergrad curriculum.** Lorimer reviewed a handout summarizing changes to the forest science undergrad curriculum, including dropping a requirement for calculus while retaining an economics requirement. The Committee created a common core of natural-resource related courses which would meet Society of American Foresters (SAF) accreditation standards to accommodate the forest management track. They also added FWE 100 as an organizing overview of the forestry field. Beyond the common core are 12-credit sequences in each of the three tracks. They dropped some intermediate courses which had significant prerequisites. Lorimer discussed the difficulty in holding the number of credits lower while meeting accreditation needs. As a result of the changes, the number of credits required has changed little. The faculty discussed whether FWE 100 will serve the role of preparing upper-level students. As instructor, Kruger said he retained Guries' structure as a broad overview for nonmajors as well as an intro for majors.  
**Motion (Field/Rickenbach) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to approve the committee's recommendation for restructuring the forest science undergraduate curriculum as presented.
- b. **Restructuring of wildlife ecology undergraduate curriculum.** Craven noted that the wildlife program revisions are similar to those made by CALS. Efforts to draft a new curriculum are in progress, with attention to arranging courses to ensure certification by The Wildlife Society (TWS). They will drop the organic chemistry requirement. The faculty discussed introductory forestry course requirements.  
**Motion (Kruger/Drake) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to approve the wildlife ecology undergraduate curriculum as presented.
- c. **Indirect cost returns.** The Chair will be submitting a formal request for use of indirect cost returns. He displayed a summary of item requests he has received to date, totaling about \$30,000. He hopes that this year will see a rebound following last year's exceptionally low awards from CALS. Because the Chair has his own request included in the list, Rickenbach will rank the requests prior to submission. The faculty discussed whether to devote some funds toward refurbishing building space. The faculty discussed a Departmental strategy for allocating funds and ranking the requests, noting that this is one of few sources of funding for those who have no access to an unrestricted gift fund, and discussing the role of those who generate indirect cost returns. The Chair generally proposed allocating a percentage of IDC returns for general Departmental needs, including those of faculty members who generate little revenue through indirect costs. They discussed strategies for carrying requests over from fiscal year to fiscal year. He will draft a more specific proposal to present at a future meeting for allocation in future years.

3. New Business

- a. **Approval of cross-listing with Hort 375.** The Department has received a request to cross-list a course with Hort 375: Arboriculture and Landscape Maintenance (3 cr.). Lorimer noted that students with an interest in urban forestry have taken the course and approved, and he noted that several Forest Ecology alumni serve as guest lecturers. He conveyed the Curriculum Committee's reasoning for recommending the approval. Drake noted that he has participated in the course as a guest lecturer. The faculty discussed the advantages of cross-listing. **Motion (Townsend/Langston) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to approve the cross-listing of Horticulture 375 with Forest & Wildlife Ecology.
- b. **Townsend plan for sabbatical leave.** The Chair reviewed some of the general considerations when deciding whether to plan a sabbatical. Townsend discussed plans for covering his teaching responsibilities during what he hopes can be a year-long sabbatical. The Chair noted that further discussion will occur in the next Executive Committee meeting. Gower proposed revisiting the common planning challenge created by students who wait until the semester is underway before registering for class. The Chair will add this as an item on a future agenda.
- c. **Gordon R. Connor fund at UW Foundation generates \$25-30,000/year.** Bowe reported that the Board which governs the awards from this fund has requested short, 10-sentence project descriptions, which he can relay to the Board. He will distribute a memo to the faculty with a request for responses.
- d. **Schedule for review of faculty members.** The Chair asked faculty to inform him of their plans to undergo three-year contract renewal, tenure consideration, tenured faculty five-year reviews, and promotional consideration, to allow for distribution of meetings on agendas throughout the year. Among those up for review this year will be: Pidgeon, Bowe, Kruger, Lutz, Radeloff, and Rickenbach.

The Chair noted that the upcoming Exec Committee meeting will be open to assistant professors and invited them to remain in the room.

Adjourn 2:21 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott