

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Nov. 1, 2010  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Allison, Berkelman, Bowe, Craven, Drake, Field, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Langston, Lorimer, Lutz, Karl Malcolm (DNR), Karl Martin (DNR), Mladenoff, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ray, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rittenhouse, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Temple, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen, Webster

Absent: Cary, Gower, Guries, Nack, Robinson, Serbin

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

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the Oct. 11 department meeting were approved (Lorimer/Rickenbach).
2. Reports and Announcements. Gunther distributed a monthly IT summary and reminded the faculty of a planned Wisemail outage Nov. 5. Webster reminded the faculty to alert her and Luther of any upcoming grant submissions. Rodock reported that Associate Dean Donna Paulnock has noted a decrease in the share of WARF funding coming to the faculty through the Biological Sciences division, which the Graduate School distributes based on relative numbers of proposals from each division. Radeloff estimated the success rate for proposals submitted to the Graduate School at approximately 50 percent.
3. New Business
  - a. **Discussion of Climate Change Position.** The Chair summarized the background on developing a position description to hire a tenure-track faculty member whose research would focus on climate change in a way which would also meet the needs of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Karl Martin explained the recent hires the DNR has made and funding they've obtained in the area of climate change, indicating consistency of the positions as a challenge. He presented the position as an opportunity for the UW to establish itself as one of the first programs nationwide with staff focusing on climate change research. He discussed the source of funding available through the DNR. The faculty discussed ongoing research in the Department and elsewhere in the University, long-term responsibilities, teaching and research responsibilities. Martin noted that he foresees the new position supervising the Department's recently added postdoc positions which focus on climate change. He noted that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the UW and DNR covers the duration of a tenured professor's appointment, though it allows for renegotiation in the event of the faculty member's departure. Rickenbach noted that the campus will also ultimately back up a tenured position to which it has committed, should the Memorandum fail. He and the Chair relayed the Dean's continued expressed support for the position through the duration of her own term, as well as the need for the Department to be prepared to justify the position at the campus level and beyond.

**Motion (Langston/Field) passed** on a unanimous voice vote that the Department enthusiastically supports the hire of a tenure-track faculty member specializing in the research area of climate change and requests that the Chair and Associate Chair advance the process.
  - b. **Proposal for use of Schorger Reading Room funds.** Noting that 2014 is the centennial of the extinction of the passenger pigeon and that the Department possesses a meticulous record of the extinction created by Professor Schorger, Temple proposed a project to digitize these records to make them and other documents retrieved through the State Historical Society available for this upcoming continent-wide "teachable moment." He requested \$2,500 from the Schorger Fund in

each of next four years (2011-14) to cover costs to digitize the pigeon records, prepare a pigeon gazetteer, provide key seed money for the larger educational effort, and defray expenses of some outreach activities which he will conduct in 2014. The money will be useful to obtain matching funds from several other sources already expressing initial interest in the project. The faculty expressed general support.

- c. **Leopold Lecture, Spring 2011.** The Chair reminded the faculty that this year's Leopold Lecture would normally be delivered by a scholar in the forestry field. In lieu of proposals and with faculty consent that strict alternation between the fields of wildlife and forestry was unnecessary, Van Deelen and Malcolm suggested inviting author and Professor Pan Wenshi from Peking University, a foremost panda expert whose work predates the existence of panda reserves. They noted that Dr. Pan's story parallels Leopold's in that his work predates the existence of panda reserves. Allison noted that UW alumnus Tony Putnam will be visiting China to help design a panda pavilion and might serve as a co-presenter. The Chair asked Van Deelen and Allison to work as a committee to look into inviting them and creating a lecture around the visit this spring.

3. Old Business

- a. **Instructional assignments.** The Chair distributed a draft grid charting recent and projected teaching assignments, which he asked the faculty to review in development of a tool to allow a long-term overview of teaching assignments.
- b. **Indirect cost returns.** The Chair displayed and Townsend reminded the faculty of the two proposed plans for the annual distribution of indirect cost returns. Following either method, amounts under \$1,000 would not return to a principal investigator without a special request to the Chair. The Chair noted that the Chair and Associate Chair could return to the faculty should new needs arise, such as providing Departmental support for a new faculty hire. The Chair discussed potential needs for a Departmental allocation, including building remodeling or support for new hires. He said the Department may carry unused funds forward from year-to-year, and noted that a rough estimate is that this year more than \$50,000 will return to the Department. Webster noted that they could use these funds as the Departmental match for Hatch grant capital exercise requests, which are designed to acquire equipment shared among multiple labs. Craven discussed the need for non-GPR funding for day-to-day departmental operations as well; as examples of expenditures beyond minimal operational costs, Timme listed student conference travel, computer equipment, association memberships, subscriptions, and furniture. The Department will still require an annual process for receiving and ranking faculty requests.  
**Motion (Rickenbach Kruger) passed** on a voice vote to adopt, beginning this year, Method 1, which reserves 33% of the request for Department-wide needs (but not to exceed \$20,000), with the remainder distributed proportionally to principal investigators based on the amount of indirect cost funds they've generated. In August 2011 the Department will revisit the question.

Craven reminded the faculty to submit curriculum information.

Adjourn 2:05 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott