

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Dec. 6, 2010  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Cary, Craven, Drake, Field, Karasov (presiding), Langston, Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Ozdogan, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ray, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Robinson, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Serbin, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen; Wiebke Neumann

Absent: Bowe, Gower, Guries, Kruger, Rittenhouse

Karasov called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the Nov. 1 department meeting were approved (Samuel/Rickenbach).
2. Reports and Announcements.
  - a. **Benefits and Payroll.** Timme reported that the University will deposit pay for December into unclassified employees' accounts on Jan. 3 due to the New Year's holiday falling on a weekend. She distributed a description of the upcoming HRS (Human Resource System) self-service website which employees will be able to access to update their own payroll and benefits information.
  - b. **Financial.** Timme noted that principal investigators must file no-cost extensions through WISPER from now on. Postdocs or students must submit pre-award requests under the principal investigators' names. She reported that e-reimbursement approvals are lagging by about three weeks and alerted the faculty to watch for and act on e-mails requesting additional information or clarification.
  - c. **Student Services.** Rodock distributed a flyer about and demonstrated the Graduate School's GWIS-Lite software for review of student applicant files, describing the information available on each applicant. She recommended that the faculty consider bringing in students to coincide with other recruitment events on campus in February. The Chair reminded the faculty of the availability of funding to support student recruitment travel.
  - d. **New Department seminar.** Serbin announced that the first seminar series, at this point drawing on presenters from within the Department or the Midwest, will run from Jan 26-May 11. The seminars will follow the coffee hour Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. in Room A228.
  - e. **Chair announcements.**
    - Course review/exam scan forms.* The Chair told the faculty how to find the time and location of their final exams through the on-line faculty center.
    - Upcoming celebrations.* The Chair reminded the faculty of Helen Thompson's retirement celebration Friday, Dec. 17 from 1-3 p.m. in Room A228.
    - New CALS Admin. Team.* The Chair reminded the faculty that William Tracy (Agronomy) will serve as interim dean, Birl Lowery (Agronomy) will replace Guries as associate dean, and Rick Lindroth (Entomology) will serve as associate dean for research.
3. Old Business
  - a. **Update on climate change position.** The Chair reported that he and Rickenbach have received letters of support for the proposed faculty position from the Nelson Institute and the Agronomy Department. They have been keeping Dean Jahn abreast of the developments. The DNR is working with a lawyer to finalize the language in a memorandum of understanding between the UW and the DNR, which is providing most of the funding. He displayed the position vacancy listing, which has been submitted and includes language which leaves the door open for a broad number of directions which will allow the needs of the DNR and the Department to be met. The

position description deliberately mentions birds and mammals because of the federal source of some of the funding. He asked that any comments be directed to Rickenbach or himself

- b. **New undergraduate degree structure: final revisions.** Rodock distributed summaries of the most recently proposed revisions to the undergraduate degrees. The Forest Science curriculum includes a Comm B (writing) course; she suggested faculty members may consider whether to seek a Comm B designation for their own courses. The curriculum also drops the seldom used Statistics 571 requirement. She reviewed the other changes.

She reviewed the Wildlife Ecology curriculum changes, noting the Committee will request an indication “recommending” FWE 150/151. The faculty discussed the requirements, the balance of course availability between spring and fall, and conflicting schedules.

- c. **Leopold Lecture, Spring 2011.** Van Deelen updated the faculty that Professor Pan Wenshi appears willing and interested in coming to speak in Madison. Explaining Pan’s work on panda habitat and noted that he is something of a founding father of wildlife management in China. The faculty discussed Pan’s English ability and the participation of students in the China IGERT education and research training program. The Chair asked the faculty to propose other options in the event Pan is unable to deliver the address. They discussed the advantage of a potential standing committee to plan annual Leopold lectures.

3. New Business

- a. **Cross-listing in FWE of Environmental Studies 556.** Ozdogan described the course, entitled Digital Image Processing of Remotely Sensed Data, noting that teaching of remote sensing has been shifting from civil engineering to environmental natural resource management. The official cross-listing is an initial step toward transferring ownership of the course from Environmental Studies to FWE.

**Motion (Townsend/Van Deelen) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to cross-list Environmental Studies 556 with Forest & Wildlife Ecology.

- b. **Space issues.**  
**Conference Rooms A121/A232.** The Chair reported the history of the use of these rooms and asked whether the Department can accommodate requests by Entomology and Plant Pathology. The faculty expressed a desire for more information about the rooms which are available throughout the building.

**New server room in basement.** Radeloff reminded the faculty that a central room currently holds all servers in the building. Tomorrow morning representatives from three departments will meet to discuss the server rooms. Schaeffer has recommended that the realities of the building dictate using space in the A-wing. The faculty discussed fire exits and other concerns about the proposed space.

Craven reminded faculty of a game dinner at the Arboretum at 6 p.m.

Adjourn 2:19 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott