

**Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology**

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Feb. 2, 2011  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Allison, Berkelman, Bowe, Craven, Drake, Gunther, Guries, Karasov (presiding), Lorimer, Ozdogan, Pidgeon, Ray, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Scott, Serbin, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen, Webster

Absent: Cary, Field, Gower, Kruger, Langston, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Pauli, Peery, Nack, Radeloff, Ribic, Rittenhouse, Robinson, Samuel

Karasov called the meeting to order at 1:59 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the Dec. 6, 2010 department meeting were approved (Rickenbach/Townsend), with the correction of the courses named in item 3.b. to "Biology/Botany/Zoology 151/152."
2. Reports and Announcements.
  - a. **Payroll.** Timme reported plans to interview three candidates for a university grants and contracts specialist position to assist Webster, in partnership with the College, in pre-award submissions and post-award closeouts. She reported that the College requests submission of grant proposals at least a week prior to deadline, down from the prior two-week request.
  - b. **IT.** Gunther distributed a summary of IT Updates from the previous month.
  - c. **Financial.** Webster reminded faculty that the UW indirect cost rate remains 49.5% until June 30, after which it increases to 50.5%. Timme noted that RA salary rates will not change, and benefit rates for FY 12 are not yet determined.
  - d. **Student Services.** Rodock reminded the faculty about the call for Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships. The Department received two last year. Each of the Department's two programs may nominate one student.
  - e. **Budget Planning by APC.** Rickenbach reported that Interim Dean Tracy has asked the CALS Academic Planning Council to consider how to handle a \$2.2- to \$2.6-million cut to the CALS 101 (General Purpose Revenue) budget, revisiting last year's policies in developing priorities. The majority of this funding goes to salaries for faculty, staff and research assistants. He asked the faculty to convey their thoughts to him individually. The Chair reported that CALS chairs meeting discussion raised the possibilities of an increase in furlough days next biennium, perhaps to 12 annually, and decreases in benefits. Cuts to the University will result in about a 5% overall cut to the College for each year of the biennium—approximately the same as a cut two years ago. Details won't be firm until this summer. The Dean has frozen his office's administrative staff hiring.
  - f. **Digital Data Management Plans (DDMP).** The Chair reported that the National Science Foundation has instituted a new DDMP requirement that will likely follow at other federal agencies as well. The UW Library System is developing resources to help principal investigators who must devise a plan as part of the grant submission process; contact Associate Dean Rick Lindroth with specific questions.
  - g. **CALS Climate Survey.** The Chair reported that in about two weeks employees in CALS will receive a survey by the Board of Regents on overall workplace climate, a pilot of a wider survey of the entire UW System.
  - h. **Student crisis resources.** The Chair distributed a card with information on the Dean of Students crisis loans and responses to troubled or disruptive students.
  - i. **Revised meeting schedule.** With no times during the week mutually available for all the faculty members, the Chair asked whether alternating meeting days between Mondays and Tuesdays this semester would allow greater participation by the full faculty.

3. Old Business

- a. **Update on climate change position search.** Craven reported that the Chair has appointed a Search Committee for an assistant professor in the area of climate change consisting of Craven, Langston, Peery, Gerald Bartelt (DNR) and, as applications come in for review, Mladenoff. The University listed the position vacancy (PVL 66151) in early January, making a minor change about a week ago to list a new contact person. The Committee will place applications for review in a file in the Department's main office and has established the following timeline: the week of March 7, pare down the applicant pool to a manageable number of 8-15; over spring break and by 3rd week in March, develop a short list; by the end of March, invite people for interviews in mid-April. The position would start July 1. Craven listed the 14 websites on which the Committee has posted PVL 66151, with an eventual posting on the Department website as well. He will e-mail electronic announcement to faculty and encouraged his colleagues to spread the word.
- b. **Leopold Lecture, Spring 2011.** Van Deelen updated the faculty that Professor Pan Wenshi would probably need a translator to deliver the Leopold lecture. The faculty discussed collaboration with Smithsonian Institution, dovetailing with the Chancellor's China initiative, translation alternatives, alternative speakers, and difficulties in inviting international speakers. The lecture usually occurs around Earth Day, which coincides this year with the search committee plans to bring in applicants for on-campus interviews for the climate change faculty position. The Chair polled the faculty and as a result the faculty recommended investigating bringing Professor Pan Wenshi to campus in 2012. Drake will look into possibilities to present *Green Fire*, the film on Aldo Leopold's life and legacy. Guries will investigate potential speakers on Wilderness. The Chair agreed to name a Lectures Committee to remove the burden of making annual arrangements from any individual.

4. New Business

- a. **FWE 550 course change and FWE 551 new course proposal.** Rodock explained that the current combined 3-4 credit lecture and lab structure of FWE 550 confuses students. The Curriculum Committee proposes making 550 a 3-credit lecture and 551 a 1-credit lab with a prerequisite of prior or simultaneous enrollment in 550.  
**Motion (Bowe/Berkelman) passed** on a unanimous voice vote to accept the changes as presented.
- b. **Grad Programs Committee.** Rickenbach described the Committee's proposal for grad student representation on appropriate Departmental committees, beginning with placing onto the Grad Programs Committee a student from each program, who would however not be present for fellowship awards or personnel matters. The faculty expressed general approval for the change. The Undergraduate Committee will discuss whether to incorporate undergrads. The Chair and Serbin will discuss appointing students to other committees.
- c. **Departmental Conference Room A232 display.** Townsend proposed continuing the tradition of hanging portraits of Wildlife Department chairs in Conference Room A232 by adding portraits of the chairs of the joint department, and perhaps previous chairs of Forestry.
- d. **Requested posting photos.** Townsend proposed updating photos of the Department's grad students and postdocs on display in the hallway. Rodock volunteered to collect new student photos at orientation. The Chair will identify space to post approximately 100 portraits.

- b. **Instructional Lab Modernization, Call for 2012 proposals.** The Chair solicited requests for ILM proposal process by the March 18 deadline and recommended contacting Professor Ray with any questions on the process. Townsend proposed updating the CPUs in the A120 computer lab.
- c. **CALS facilities Committee.** Bowe recommended planning now for the fall round of funding for lab projects, when the College distributes approximately \$75,000 for proposals affecting research or instruction. The faculty discussed remodeling the second-floor lunch room, including improvements to the sink and cabinets; the Chair requested a written proposal to allow him to investigate internal possibilities for upgrading the room.

Adjourn 2:52 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott