

Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology

Faculty Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2011
216 Russell Labs

Present: Allison, Berkelman, Craven, Drake, Field, Gower, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Pauli, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ray, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Scott, Serbin, Timme, Van Deelen, Webster

Absent: Bowe, Cary, Guries, Kruger, Langston, Ozdogan, Rittenhouse, Robinson, Samuel, Townsend

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

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. The minutes of the April 4, 2011 department meeting were approved (Field/Ray).
2. Reports and Announcements.
 - a. **Retirements.** The Chair reported that Ray and Cary have formally announced their retirement and noted that five senior professors retiring in the past two years constitute 25% of the faculty.
 - b. **Payroll.** Timme updated the faculty on the implementation of the Human Resource System (HRS). She requested that furlough for 9-month basis appointees be used by the end of the academic year, May 22. She reported that the new salary transfer system will e-mail principal investigators of the need to log in and approve transfers on-line.
 - c. **IT.** No report.
 - c. **Financial.** Webster reported that nonsalary cash transfers are much more prompt under the new system. She asked faculty to contact her or Naunapper with any questions to help close out accounts.
 - d. **Student services.** No report.
 - e. **End of semester event.** Drake announced an end-of-year Department social event at Rookies, about 25 minutes west of Madison, featuring whiffle ball, food and beverages 6-8 p.m. Friday.
 - f. **Faculty Senate vote.** Drake reported on a long Faculty Senate discussion leading up to an affirmative vote supporting the New Badger Partnership. The measure faces a lot of opposition in the Legislature.
3. Old Business
 - a. **Report on Leopold Lecture.** The Chair complimented this year's Leopold Lecture and the associated movie screening. The faculty commented that the lecture location was less convenient than in other years.
 - b. **Update on Climate Change and Natural Resources faculty member search.** Drake announced the dates for candidates Zuckerberg May 10-11, Tingley May 19-20, and Townsend May 25-26. All will lodge at Union South and received a letter requesting that they present a one-hour research seminar including approximately 10 minutes at the end for questions, highlighting work with birds and mammals and collaboration with local agencies. He has asked them to specifically address ideas for undergraduate education, their research programs, and collaboration with other agencies. The DNR has requested a two-hour block with each candidate. The Committee will record videos for viewing by faculty members who are unable to attend. Craven will organize a viewing of the seminar videos at the annual camp. The faculty discussed obtaining input from both grad students and undergraduates. Drake indicated that each candidate is excited to interview in Madison.

4. New Business

- a. **Planning for career recognition celebration.** Craven is heading a committee which will plan a Department recognition celebration of the careers of five Department members who will retire this summer—one consolidated event, probably at the new Varsity Hall at Union South. He foresees inviting 100-200 people in the Department and College, and immediate families. He discussed the need to request RSVPs and limit the number of attendees. The faculty settled on Oct. 6.
- b. **Proposal for videoconferencing system.** Rickenbach reported that Bowe has investigated options for upgrading the meeting room by creating a videoconference facility. The Chair displayed options including (1) an SKC Polycom Videoconferencing Option at approximately \$12,000, including a fixed, proprietary software, similar to the equipment available at UW Extension, and (2) a Consumer Videoconferencing Option for approximately \$5,000, with equipment largely obtained through the UW Division of Information Technology. The faculty discussed and compared facilities across campus. Bowe arrived during the conversation and provided details on the options, including their limitations. The faculty discussed uses of the system, including student committee meetings, webinar workshops, and guest lecturers for classes. The faculty expressed interest in using such a system, supported the purchase, and discussed relative flexibility of the two options.
- c. **Proposal to alter course requirements for the Forestry MS and PhD degrees.** Rickenbach reminded the faculty on behalf of the Graduate Affairs Committee of the plan to change the requirement of two incidences of FWE 901 and an exit seminar to one credit of professional development and one credit of graduate seminar, placing at the discretion of the committee the determination of what constitutes satisfactory completion of these requirements. The faculty discussed the content of FWE 901. If offered, 901 would meet the professional development requirement, as would other courses.

Motion (Ray/Radeloff) passed on a unanimous voice vote to approve the change in the Forestry program as recommended by the Graduate Committee, that the requirements for an MS and PhD. include at least 1 credit of professional development and 1 credit of professional seminar. Candidates will still give a public exit seminar.

- d. **Committee to update/revise/rewrite the forest economics position statement.** Rickenbach reported that the Academic Planning Council and the Interim Dean are considering taking most of the impending budget cut from supplies and non-faculty salary dollars to allow the hire of faculty positions this year. He recommended rewriting the forest economics positions to be prepared at the next hiring opportunity. The Chair noted that Bowe has covered some of the duties in the wake of Buongiorno's retirement, but that Bowe does not consider this a long-term arrangement. The faculty expressed interest in revising the statement prior to the departure of the current interim dean.
- e. **Next meeting.** The Chair noted the need for a pre-summer meeting to discuss the candidates and other Departmental business. The Chair proposed a meeting Thursday, June 2.

Adjourn 2:54 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott
approved 6/2/2011