



Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Sept. 12, 2011  
216 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Drake, Gower, Gunther, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Langston, Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Nack, Pauli, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Rickenbach, Rissman, Robinson, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Timme, Van Deelen, Webster, Zuckerberg

Absent: Ozdogan, Ribic, Serbin, Townsend (sabbatical)

Karasov called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. Minutes of the May 3, 2011 meeting had been approved at the June 2 Executive Committee meeting, which was open initially and attended by assistant professors.
2. Reports and Announcements.
  - a. **Appointment funding.** Timme requested funding information from faculty for the new and continuing students and staff in their labs.
  - b. **Biweekly payrolls, tuition.** Scott reported biweekly payrolls continuing relatively smoothly in the new Human Resource System. Some students' tuition remissions and third-party payment arrangements which the staff has learned about recently are still in process.
  - c. **Grant encumbrances.** Webster advised the faculty not to worry if encumbrances appear inaccurately on their grants, much of which resulted from systemic errors in converting to a new fiscal year; she asked faculty to contact her with any discrepancies in accounts which need correction. She announced cancellation of this week's e-reimbursement training.
  - d. **Student services.** Rodock reported that Interim Associate Dean Sarah Pfatteicher has requested that all faculty members be authorized for the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) and the Advisor Notes System, which will help the College demonstrate to the campus that CALS does perform faculty advising. Rodock distributed DARS authorization forms and asked people to contact her about training for Advisor Notes.
  - e. **Information technology.** Gunther Announced that A120 upgrade has been done, so instructors should not assume that old software is in place.
  - f. **Shops & Maintenance.** No report.
  - g. **Zuckerberg welcome.** The Chair welcomed Assistant Professor Ben Zuckerberg to his initial meeting as a member of the Department.
  - h. **Newsletter items.** The Chair encouraged the faculty and staff to submit research news, awards, alumni news, and other announcements to Mary Miron for the upcoming newsletter.
3. Old Business
  - a. **Career recognition celebration planning.** The Chair reminded the faculty of the celebration Thursday evening, Oct. 13, at Union South, of the careers of recent retirees Cary, Craven, Field, Guries, and Ray. Bowe has agreed to serve as MC for the event and he solicited photos and anecdotes about the five retirees. The Chair asked the faculty to sign copies of an illustrated edition of *The Sand County Almanac* which each will receive as a gift.
4. New Business
  - a. **Department Committees 2011-12.** The Chair displayed a list of committee assignments. He has reduced the size of committees to ease the scheduling of meetings.
  - b. **Grad student representation on committees.** Robinson reported interest among grad students to staff Departmental committees, particularly the Graduate Programs Committee. The faculty

expressed support for appointing more students to committees as non-voting members. Drake and Rodock noted that students serving on the Programs Committees would not have access to some sensitive or personal student information. The faculty discussed placing two students, representing both the Wildlife Ecology and Forestry programs, on both the Undergraduate and Graduate programs committees, and one student from either program on other committees. Rodock volunteered to assist Robinson in nominating students to specific committees. The Chair will work with the committee chairs and students to develop procedures for student appointments to Departmental committees. The faculty agreed to invite a student from each of the undergraduate clubs to participate in the Undergraduate Programs Committee.

- c. **Seminar Committee policy document and schedule.** Pauli said that the newly formed Seminar Committee intends to include a graduate student and post-doc. He announced that Stephen Carpenter (Zoology & Limnology) will kick off this fall's series Sept. 16, adding that the Department's on-line seminar page [[http://fwe.wisc.edu/ce\\_seminars.htm](http://fwe.wisc.edu/ce_seminars.htm)] lists speakers for the remainder of the season's seminars. Due to last year's increased attendance, the Committee has relocated seminars to the larger Room 104, with snacks and coffee served nearby in Room A121 preceding each seminar. The Committee will provide those who nominate speakers a packet with instructions on inviting, hosting and reimbursing speaker expenses.
- d. **New natural resources economist position request.** Rickenbach circulated a position description earlier in the summer which he will update soon. He differentiated the economics focus in this position from that sought by the Department of Ag and Applied Economics (AAE). The faculty agreed that Forest Economics programs, focusing on forest management, are outside the standard purview of AAE, whose ability to serve the campus on natural resources questions is overtaxed. The faculty discussed the difficulty arranging collaboration with AAE, given that department's emphasis on hiring economists whose interest in natural resources or forestry may be incidental. The Department must demonstrate that needs of silviculture are sufficiently unique to support a hire independent of AAE. Rickenbach anticipates support from the Wisconsin Bioenergy Initiative and the DNR and noted that filling this position will help the Department maintain Society of American Forestry accreditation.
- d. **New extension wildlife request.** Drake distributed and reviewed a draft position vacancy listing following Craven's retirement and noted that Tom Blewett of UW-Extension prioritizes it given the importance and high visibility of an Extension ecologist. Devoted primarily to Extension activities 51 to as much as 75 percent time, the appointment would be embedded within a department. Although UW Cooperative Extension Dean Rick Klemme has called a hiring freeze, he has also enunciated criteria for filling new positions. The faculty discussed the importance of economics to the position, potential collaboration with other agencies, and support at the county level. Drake solicited further input to build upon this initial draft.
- e. **APC consideration of new faculty hires.** Rickenbach reported that the CALS Academic Planning Council (APC) will issue a call for positions this semester, anticipating one position request per department, accompanied by a two-page summary of the department's foreseen direction and the fit of each new position within it. Currently it appears that the College, having lost 25 faculty positions in the last year, could hire 8-10 positions this year and again next year. Chairs will meet with the APC to review each position. The APC will rank the requests, planning strategically and long-term. Rickenbach noted that Extension positions are handled somewhat differently due to the Extension contribution toward funding and running of its own evaluation and ranking process. The Chair will include an update and discussion of the APC process on the next meeting agenda. He encouraged people to contact Rickenbach and Drake with comments on the respective positions.

- f. Bowe displayed the new videoconferencing hardware and provided tips on its use. Users can purchase iChat, Skype, or the UW Extension HD system; participants on the other end require compatible software. The equipment, on rollers, is portable within the building. The cabinet locks with a key kept by Laurie Ballentine.

Adjourn 2:11 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott  
approved: 10/03/2011