

Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology

Faculty Meeting Minutes of Oct. 3, 2011
216 Russell Labs

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Drake, Karasov (presiding), Kruger, Langston, Nack, Ozdogan, Pauli, Peery, Pidgeon, Ribic, Rickenbach, Robinson, Rodock, Samuel, Scott, Timme, Van Deelen, Webster, Zuckerberg

Absent: Gower, Gunther, Lorimer, Lutz, Mladenoff, Radeloff, Rissman, Serbin, Townsend (sabbatical)

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

1. Agenda and minutes. The Chair reviewed the agenda. Minutes of the Sept. 12, 2011 meeting were approved as presented (Drake/Van Deelen).
2. Reports and Announcements.
 - a. Error on earnings statements. Timme noted that a statement on all Oct. 1 payroll earnings statements about missing leave statements is inaccurate and may be ignored.
 - b. Benefits Fair. Scott reminded the faculty of the upcoming Benefits Fair Oct. 11 at the Memorial Union, a source of useful information given the significant recent changes in employee benefits.
 - c. Travel receipts. Webster encouraged people to turn in receipts for travel in a timely manner to receive more prompt reimbursement and to assist in grant closeouts.
 - d. Student services. Rodock reported that spring admissions cycle is approaching, asked the faculty to inform her if they are recruiting students, and reminded them of the availability of funding for bringing candidates to a campus visit.
 - e. Information technology. No report.
 - f. Shops & maintenance. No report.
 - g. Internationalizing undergraduate education. The Chair introduced Laura Van Toll and Masarah Van Eyck, administrative program specialists in the International Programs Office at 116 Ag Hall who had addressed the CALS Chairs meeting. Van Eyck distributed handouts "International Internship/Field Study Travel Grants" and "2011 Science Internationalization Course Development Projects," explaining that part of the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates grant awarded to the College last year was designated to internationalize undergraduate education. Van Eyck oversees academic technology, experiential learning programs, and an on-line resource for use by faculty in the sciences in identify international opportunities. Van Toll assists faculty in creating internships and study abroad opportunities. Van Toll noted that travel grants are primarily for undergraduates, though some master's students may receive them as well. Faculty and staff members are also eligible to receive travel grants to explore possibilities for opening new programs as well as staff assistance in arranging travel and reimbursing expenses. They invited faculty to contact them for further information.
3. Old Business
 - a. Career recognition celebration planning. Bowe has collected materials and stories from the families of the five retirees to be honored at the Oct. 13 celebration at Union South, Cary, Craven, Field, Guries, and Ray, and invited the faculty to share photographs and stories as well. Each retiree will have a few minutes to reflect on his own career, and the Chair will speak on behalf of the Department.
 - b. New forest management position request. Rickenbach distributed a copy of the most recent draft position description, which had been posted electronically as well. The Chair noted that he must submit the material to the Academic Planning Council by the end of the month. The

faculty reviewed the description and Rickenbach solicited edits. The faculty discussed references to economics and to ecosystems services. The position requires a degree, not necessarily a Ph.D., in forestry. Rickenbach will solicit letters of support from collaborating departments prior to presenting the Department's case in December. The Chair will submit the request, revised based on faculty comments, to the Dean's Office and advise the faculty of the progress at the November meeting.

- c. Update on Wildlife Extension position. Drake reported that Tom Blewett, wildlife program director for UW-Extension, welcomed support for replacing this position in the Department and expressed concern that it not compete with the forest management position. Blewett will discuss the position with Extension Dean Rick Klemme. Drake reported having little feedback thus far and solicited comments. The faculty discussed the inclusion of various types of expertise—e.g., herpetology, hunter retention, extension skills, wildlife-human dimensions, wetlands—and the need to rank their importance before launching the search.
4. New Business
- a. Wildlife Ecology graduate curriculum changes. Drake displayed the current wildlife course requirements on which the 10 faculty members present had come to consensus. Existing requirements have proved troublesome for some students, and challenging for new faculty members who during their tenure qualification period while investigating wildlife ecology in new ways are also trying to help some of their students finish degrees. The faculty discussed balancing departmental cohesiveness and oversight on one hand while providing leeway for the committee to take responsibility for devising a course plan individually suited to the student. Peery noted that they considered changes in order to pare down the undergraduate course requirements to allow graduate students the time to take more graduate courses. The faculty discussed requirements for certification by The Wildlife Society, population dynamics study, and effects on enrollment. The faculty agreed to add population ecology as one of the two required courses in ecology.

Motion (Drake/Peery) passed on a unanimous voice vote to accept the proposed changes to the wildlife ecology graduate curriculum, as amended to specify a population ecology course.

Adjourn 1:48 p.m.

submitted by Ken Scott
approved: