



Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology
Minutes of the Department Meeting
September 9, 2013

Present: Berkelman, Bowe, Carpenter, Drake, Garcia, Karasov, Kirby, Kruger, Lorimer, Lutz, Miron, Mladenoff, Nack, Ozdogan, Pauli, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rodock, Smith, Stanosz, Temple, Timme, Townsend, Van Deelen, Webster

Absent: Gower, Peery, Rissman, Samuel, Zuckerberg

Bill Karasov (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm in 216 Russell Labs.

Introductions

Graduate Student representative Becky Kirby announced the other graduate student reps: Matt Garcia (present), Dunbar Carpenter (present), Jess Gorzo and James Burnham.

Glen Stanosz introduced Denise Smith, Senior Research Specialist who has worked with Stanosz for 21 years.

Approval of minutes from April 30, 2013.

Motion: Stanosz (Ozdogan) moved to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2013 department meeting. Motion carried.

Reports and Announcements

Timme summarized a few issues related to Parking Lot 36. Garrett Hamilton has been hired as a financial specialist.

Webster mentioned the new Concur travel booking website that is contracted with Fox Travel. Airfare paid directly must now be booked through Concur. Hatch budgets end this month. Let her know if any payroll funding needs updating. Linda Naunapper is again working in Russell Labs.

Rodock reminded faculty that students registering for independent study must get authorization from her or Laurie Ballantine. Faculty should let her know if they are recruiting graduate students for either spring or next fall.

Old Business

Update on renewal of Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Cooperative

Agreement. Ribic announced that an agreement has been signed by all parties involved and the agreement is good for five years.

Update on new faculty search and screen committee. Karasov reported that the Search and Screen Committee has met once and has discussed the general approach it will take for the hiring process. It is drafting a PVL that should be ready by mid week. This draft will be circulated for comments.

Update on proposed new extension position on human dimensions of wildlife management. Drake reported that a position description was drafted in August and submitted to extension. He has not yet received feedback from them.

Review of standing committees. Karasov showed a draft listing of the department's standing committees and their respective members and requested comments.

Awards Committee: Karasov requested comments on forming an awards committee. The response was positive and seen as a good way to promote the department and faculty as well as capture funds. Mladenoff suggested using tenure promotion packages to apply for awards. Karasov asked people to contact him if they are interested in serving on this committee.

What's on the Horizon (university, college, department). Karasov summarized comments from recent meetings. University-Rebecca Blank mentioned three priorities: 1) Establish better relations between the campus and outside. 2) Better communicate the value of the UW to the city and state. To that end the UW will prepare materials that can be taken to meetings and distributed around the state. 3) Create an adequate and stable financial structure, including changes to the funding structure. CALS- is beginning to implement the Strategic Plan. Karasov will resend an email to faculty requesting information on how FWE's accomplishments resonate with CALS' goals. Department-Activities currently in progress relating to the department include the search and screen for the new faculty member, department self study (document has been prepared), and Russell Labs Admin Center self-study in progress. Karasov will set up a department retreat in January 2014 to discuss these and other topics.

New Business

Course change proposal for FWE 515. Rissman/Rodock requested the course title and description for FWE 515 be changed to more accurately reflect the content of the course.

Motion: Rickenbach (Stanosz) moved to approve changing the title of FWE 515 to Natural Resources Policy and to update the course description as written in the course change proposal. Motion carried.

Course change proposal for Conservation Biology 651. Temple outlined the changes proposed for this course. The Nelson Institute (NI) is currently its home department. Because the changes requested are major, Temple suggested the department follow the recommendation made to the NI by the Botany department to reject this proposal and suggest that NI submit a new course proposal.

Motion: Lutz (Mladenoff) moved to reject the course change proposal and recommend the Nelson Institute submit a new course proposal for 651. Motion carried.

Lutz recommended that Peery be involved in the discussion.

Change of the semesters 404 Wildlife Damage Management is taught. Drake requested the department consider his request to change the teaching schedule for 404 from odd year spring semesters to even year fall semesters, which would be better suited to class field trips. There was discussion about proposed changes to other courses. Drake will explore further and bring the matter up at a future meeting.

New substitute faculty senator. Current faculty senators are Bowe (Lorimer alternate) and Drake (Lutz alternate). Lutz's tenure as an alternate is ending and a replacement is needed. Karasov will talk to the assistant professors to see if any of them are interested in volunteering for this role.

Results of departmental climate survey. Karasov summarized the results of the survey and requested reactions. One item that respondents felt very strongly about was a need for more opportunities to gather together. There was discussion about scheduling regular events vs. events a couple of times a year. Karasov suggested forming a standing social committee. Jamie Nack volunteered. A faculty member and a couple of graduate students will be recruited. If interested, contact Karasov.

Adjourn

Motion: Rickenbach (Lutz) moved to adjourn. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.