



Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology
Minutes of the Department Meeting
September 8, 2014

Present: Allison, Berkelman, Bowe, Dunbar Carpenter, Drake, Matt Garcia, Karasov, Kruger, Andrew L'Roe, Miron, Mladenoff, Ozdogan, Pauli, Peery, Pidgeon, Radeloff, Ribic, Rickenbach, Rissman, Rodock, Samuel, Stanosz, Timme, Townsend, Zuckerberg

Absent: Gower, Lorimer, Lutz, Van Deelen

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

Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: Drake (Rickenbach) moved to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2014, Department meeting. Motion carried.

Reports and Announcements

Timme: Sheila thanked everyone for their cooperation in meeting deadlines over the summer. Seventeen Hatch proposals were processed for all of Russell Labs, an increase from last year. She reminded everyone that she needs the funding information for new hires/student hires. She also announced that she will soon be retiring. This may be the last FWE faculty meeting she will attend.

Webster via Karasov: The Hatch fiscal year ends this month. See Joe Zimdars or Alyson Amenda for assistance. Students who have questions about their tuition remission should go ahead and pay the segregated fee portion while pursuing any changes to tuition fees.

Rodock: There is a new Independent Study form to be completed for each student (to be discussed later in meeting). Make sure independent study students sign up in a timely manner; faculty advisor approval is needed. She is beginning to process graduate student spring admissions.

Karasov: Reminded faculty of the fall competition for research grants from the Graduate School. The amount of funding given out is based partly on the number of applications received from each division. Therefore, it is advantageous to submit applications, even if not funded this year.

Rickenbach: He announced that he is willing to stand for election as department chair.

Old Business

Department review and strategic planning: The review committee has not yet submitted its review. Karasov was assured by the committee head that the final report will be finished soon.

Standing Committees: Karasov displayed a chart of committee assignments as they currently stand. An alternate representative to Faculty Senate will be needed when Lorimer retires in January. A replacement committee member is needed for the ad hoc Committee on Climate and Activities. Newly tenured faculty are finding committee(s) on which to serve. Karasov also requested input on the post seminar social event and asked for assistance as the responsible person for the events. Assistance with covering the cost of beverages was requested. Zuckerberg reported that 93% of about two dozen respondents to an end-of-year survey reported favoring the social event following the seminar.

Proposal to change the name of Biological Aspects of Conservation major to Conservation Biology (information was distributed prior to meeting).

After very brief discussion the following motion was made:

MOTION: Kruger (Rickenbach) moved to approve the proposal to change the name of the Biological Aspects of Conservation major to Conservation Biology. Motion carried by hand count: 19 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

New Business

New Independent Study Agreement Form. Rodock described a new university requirement that an independent study agreement form be completed for each student participating in an independent study course. Each department is now responsible for having a policy in place and each faculty member is responsible for completing and retaining an agreement form (distributed prior to meeting). Students should be given a copy and the faculty member retains a copy. If the faculty member gets close to 40 credit hours (e.g., 13 students doing 3 credit hours of independent study = 39 credit hours), the university may conduct an audit of that faculty member.

Proposal that FWE 515 become a Communications B course. Rissman and Rodock described the requirements and procedure to allow FWE 515 to fulfill Com B credits. The proposal has been submitted and the Undergraduate Program has reviewed and approved the proposal with the stipulation that they work with the Com B template.

MOTION: The Undergraduate Program committee proposes approving the proposal to allow FWE 515 to fulfill the Com B requirement. Motion seconded by Stanosz. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

What is on the horizon for the university, college and department? Karasov mentioned highlights of comments Chancellor Rebecca Blank made at a recent leadership council meeting. He also listed several challenges facing CALS and the department.

Adjourn. Drake (Townsend) moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 pm. Motion carried.