

Forest Ecosystems and Society

Department Meeting

Wednesday, June 7th, 2017

Richardson 115

In Attendance:

Dawn Anzinger	Troy Hall
Jessica Bagley	Reem Hajjar
Matthew Betts	Meg Krawchuk
Badege Bishaw	Misty Magers
John Campbell	Ian Munanura
Janean Creighton	Mark Needham
Ashley D'Antonio	Michael Nelson
Anthony Davis	Bill Ripple
Michelle Day	Jim Rivers
Meghan Foster	Darrell Ross
Lisa Ganio	Chris Still
	Allison Swartz

Updates and Announcements from the Department Head, Troy Hall

- 3 promotions this year
 - Mark Needham (to Full Professor)
 - Matt Betts (to Full Professor)
 - Keith Olsen (to Senior Faculty Research Assistant 2)
- FERM Department Head search failed
 - Going to appoint an interim for the time period between when Claire retires and when they hire a new DH
 - Hoping to re-open the search in January 2018
- Today we will go have cake with Norm Johnson to celebrate his retirement
 - At 4 P.M. in Strand Ag 161
 - This will be his Forest Policy lab time, which he has been teaching for a really long time
- Thank you for your participation in any and all of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion planning
 - The plan is going to the Dean (Thomas Maness) soon for his review and approval
 - Then we will start the hiring process for the coordinator
- Process to refine policies on hiring of undergraduates
 - Misty has been on a university level committee to help stream line this process and match it to the reality of hiring an undergraduate
 - A goal is to reduce requirements for posting time
 - For those of you who did express concerns or things that need to be changed, thank you
- Budget
 - Budget cuts will be occurring in the college

- In the last college meeting we discussed a 4% budget cut
 - Our College budget is in okay shape- no major concerns
 - Fall term happenings to know about:
 - Graduate Orientation- September 15th for Forest Ecosystems and Society
 - May conflict with Dave Shaw's class
 - Faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend
 - The more faculty that attend, the better the students can learn about our department's breadth
 - Faculty retreat
 - We did not get a lot of answers that were enthusiastically "yes" to hold a retreat
 - We will select a date and then if we can't get enough people, then we will cancel
 - Mondays and Tuesdays in October are the dates we are looking at
 - Building
 - Mock up is being worked on now to show how the CLT panels will look
 - The goal is to start the foundation in the end of June
 - Prices are higher than we got estimates for, but there is a plan to cover the \$11 million difference
 - We have a plan to use foundation money and long term leasing of timber rights in the Blodgett track to make money up front to help with general costs
 - No concrete details about timeline as of now
 - Timber framing should begin in October
 - AWP will be started later than originally planned
 - We are still working with the assumption that in Fall 2018 offices will be open and Classrooms usable during Spring 2019
 - We expect to get regular updates about noise and closures
 - Payroll - year end is the end of this month -- can't move money after July 1, so check your grants now
 - So work with Misty if you are unsure about moving money or if you want to move it
 - DocuSign
 - you need to sign up for this program to use it
 - You can use this program on your phone or tablet
 - Misty will send out an email to register
 - You can also upload a .JPEG or .GIF file to use

Updates from the College of Forestry Research Office (Presented by Anthony Davis)

- The research office is a busy place
 - A lot of learning has happened for me in the past months
 - Many meetings have happened, but still want to meet with more people
 - Please reach out to Anthony if you have not met with him yet about your research
- RO wants to know what roadblocks exist for our faculty and how can we make things run more smoothly?
 - Which part exactly can be worked through?

- Our goal is get you all funded
 - How can we help?
- How do we measure research and funding success in our college?
 - Not necessarily through just publications
 - Maybe through the proposals and what they are working towards achieving?
- Indirect cost recovery is an issue for the university
 - University has an indirect rate of 47% that is set by the Federal government
 - Many items are factored into how this rate is set
 - Space
 - Overhead
 - Etc.
 - CoF effective F&A rate is 15%, which is way below other colleges
- Question: What will you do to raise effective F&A rate in COF?
 - We still find the way to pay the cost that is required to conduct research, even if the money is not coming from F&A from grants
 - But we have a lot of opportunities to get this money and to articulate the value of our research (including low F&A research) to the university
 - We are a small college, but we have research programs comparable to colleges of larger size. This is a key point to emphasize in the narrative of our research
- Questions:
 - What do F&A rates look like in other COF in the nation?
 - We are very comparable to other COF's when it comes to F&A rates
 - Some universities have said they will not do \$0 overhead grants any more
 - It is important to show people how our research is impacting the world, regardless of the overhead rate
 - Is there any possibility of renegotiating the JVA's?
 - Even 5% would help
 - This is a constant conversation, but we are not making much progress
 - Is the Forest Service in the CESU agreement?
 - Yes, but they have other agreements, so they don't want to use CESU
- Real challenge is to balance the good neighbor agreement and bring in sufficient funds to cover costs.
- Are their ways to build some expenses into JVA vs indirects?
 - This is ongoing discussion, but limited success so far
 - It depends on how the partner views the administrative cost
- Question: Has anyone actually gone through and measured the actual cost of on campus VS. off campus costs
 - Yes, there are costs that go with both on campus and off campus
 - We have asked for an infographic to show funders how we spend overhead money to make is clear to them that the money is needed, not just a waste
- Research Office goal is to help you be successful in your career.
 - Come talk with Anthony if you want to
 - We want to get you linked with resources that will keep helping the college through your advancement and also help you

- Questions:
 - Are you moving forward with the video project with graduate students?
 - Yes, Our grad students have great stories and their research is awesome too. We want to showcase that work and make it as relatable (as possible) to the average person
 - This is a student piece, and students can be seen as more approachable
 - We want to make a big event out of this and then see if it is effective
- What is happening with the IWFL professorships?
 - More social science side: people and forests focused this next round
 - We want to keep internal funding and at the same time we don't want to make put people against each other
 - Still highly encouraging of interdisciplinary work. We will encourage current awarded professors to share their work
- Question: When Jeffery Husband was here, we used to be able to see what other people were submitting and being funded? (ie, complete list of grants submitted and funded).
 - We like the idea, maybe it can happen? we want to keep the communication open about what is going on
 - Comment- this list was helpful for avoiding duplication and encouraging teamwork
 - Anthony: Don't want to commit when we don't know if it is possible to maintain this, but we'll look into it.

Safety Procedures and Planning (Presented by Troy Hall)

- We need to spread awareness about our college safety policy
 - Not following procedures, enforcing them, or letting students know about them makes us (the supervisors) liable if someone gets hurt
 - We have a college safety plan -- I have sent it around as a reminder/refresher
- We are working on getting a department organized safety training for graduate students and having them sign an agreement that states they have received the training
- If you are on a committee as for a FES graduate student, ask the question and make sure you know the answer, *how has the student been trained for the field work they will be doing?*
 - If you are on a student committee for a FES student, just ask. Don't assume that someone else has taken care of this.
 - **Epecially for students whose major professors are courtesy faculty**
- Questions:
 - The college document doesn't reflect the 3 departments. Will this be updated?
 - Yes, but it may take a while
 - Some labs have made their own short guides so that volunteers don't have to know all 120 pages
 - Can we post the college and department safety guidelines on our webpage?
 - Yes. We will also have a department safety manual (as required).