

Forest Ecosystems and Society

Department Meeting

Monday, March 12th, 2018

Richardson 115

In Attendance:

Dawn Anzinger	Ian Munanura
Jessica Bagley	Mark Needham
Badege Bishaw	Michael Nelson
Janean Creighton	Melora Park
Ashley D'Antonio	Klaus Puettmann
Becky Fasth	Bill Ripple
Lisa Ganio	Jim Rivers
Reem Hajjar	Stacy Rosenberg
Troy Hall	Mark Schulze
Glenn Howe	Chris Still
Keith Jayawickrama	Steve Strauss
Barb Lachenbruch	Juliet Sutton
Bev Law	Dana Warren
Misty Magers	

Updates and Announcements from the Department Head, Troy Hall

- Strategic Plan 4.0 is under development and input is welcome
- Capital campaign has started. The focus will be on student success, not new buildings, though the Provost is planning to build up a deferred maintenance fund over the next few years.
- Student Success Initiative
 - Undergraduate Student Success Summit is April 12
 - Nominate any potential undergraduates to attend from FES
- College of Forestry is renewing a commitment to safety
 - Safety Committee reforming
 - Possible 0.5 FTE position created
- COF Budget
 - The proposed CoF budget priorities were well-received by the Provost
 - Dean asking for in-state or similar tuition for students from neighboring states to improve ability to recruit for undergraduate programs
- All-college meeting April 9th 9:00 a.m.
- College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
 - Sub-committees have formed and are looking for members, especially the committee focusing on curricula
 - You do not have to be a member of the larger committee to join sub-committees
- FERM Department Head search is continuing

- More updates and possible candidate campus visits closer to April
- Professional development fund for RAs available for use on salary for committee work
 - Contact Troy Hall for info
- New Peavy updates
 - Moving in next Spring Break
 - Looking into class scheduling over time
 - Atrium piece starting construction next week
 - AWP building breaking ground soon
- Blodgett stumpage sales planned soon
 - Sales will be used to support Peavy construction
- Natural Resources Degree 3.0 has launched (effective July 2018).
 - Want to meet with Integrated Conservation Analysis faculty about the possibility of making more courses available online
 - We need faculty who can mentor undergraduates in NR

Space Allocation Policy, Troy Hall

- Need to review policy every 3 years, now is time
- Concerns raised during the meeting:
 - Administrators making policy don't understand enough about how spaces are used
 - There should be someone from each lab present at assessments
- Allocation of space will happen before moving into Peavy

Changing Deadlines for PhD Program of Study (Presented by Lisa Ganio)

- There is a proposal to change Deadlines for turning in Program of Study and Learning Outcomes for FES PhD students from the end of the 3rd term to the end of the 5th term
 - Vote will occur at the next meeting; this meeting is for comments and discussion
 - Several attendees expressed support for these changes; no dissenting views were raised
- Notes on current deadlines
 - Reminder that deadlines are the minimum requirement; faculty should be checking in with students much earlier to keep good progress
 - 15 weeks before the defense is the absolute deadline; holds on student accounts are a possible result of missing deadline

Promotion and Tenure procedure discussion (Presented by Bill Ripple and Michael Nelson)

- Procedure needs tweaking to address a few issues:
 - Set a date for submission of dossiers
 - Lay out a timeline for the cycle
 - The university timelines for midterm evaluations means there may be a need to set aside time in both Fall and Spring for P&T meetings
 - Need to add text for more positions (current guidelines only have criteria for Assistant and Associate Professor promotions)

- Bill and Michael working on proposed changes – at the next meeting they will take comments, and at the meeting after that there will be a vote
- Discussion point: The COF P&T committee dossier reviews happen during Christmas break; can we improve that? Troy mentioned that this is a topic for a discussion among departments and the P&T committee to happen in summer.

***Should we revise promotion and tenure documents to increase recognition for science advocacy?
(Presented by Steve Strauss)***

- Dean's Memo #31 establishes a college policy regarding science advocacy
 - Inspired by FES coffee discussion of Scientific American article Feb 2018
 - Currently tenure and publishing priorities push advocacy to the side
- Memo approves
 - adding engagement recognition of science advocacy during annual reviews
 - only advocacy related to one's own scholarly area can be considered
 - the policy recommends training related to responsible advocacy
- Concerns/comments raised during the meeting:
 - Don't want this to become an additional burden on faculty; it should just be a way to get credit for work they are already interested in doing
 - Stressing that the memo/policy changes should just outline the proper way to do advocacy and clarify how to get credit for it in the P+T process, not make it mandatory
 - It might be wise to council younger faculty to be especially cautious in advocacy
 - Bill and Michael adding this to their P+T changes, will continue to discuss at next department meeting