

## ***Forest Ecosystems and Society Department Meeting***

***Monday, February 6th, 2017***

***Richardson 115***

### **In Attendance:**

Dawn Anzinger	Barb Lachenbruch
Jessica Bagley	Janel Lajoie
Matthew Betts	Bev Law
Badege Bishaw	Misty Magers
Ashley D'Antonio	Ian Munanura
Stephen Fitzgerald	Mark Needham
Lisa Ganio	Michael Nelson
Troy Hall	Paul Ries
Reem Hajjar	Chris Still
Karla Jarecke	Anna Talucci
Norm Johnson	Dana Warren
Meg Krawchuk	Penny Wright

### **Updates and Announcements (Presented by Troy Hall)**

- Building construction on Peavy /AWP is delayed. We still do not know when they will start work again; it was estimated for this week, but no news yet
  - We have not gotten any updates, because the college does not have everything they want to share yet
  - Hoping for an end date of Spring 2018; no longer anticipate making the original end date of Fall 2017
- The Richardson Scholarship, after this funding year, will no longer be available. Instead the funding will be used for the second year of the Provost scholarship (for the college required contribution)
  - Question: If we do not have a provost scholarship, where will the funds go?
    - Not sure yet
  - Question: Since we can get up to 6 Provost awards, this could end up being a lot more money than anticipated if all 6 are chosen. Has the college awards committee considered this yet or was this discussed in the most recent FEC meeting?
    - No and no
- College wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee is still making progress.
  - Focus groups are happening now. Thank you to Sarah Kelley and Heather Roberts for the Focus Group work
  - The core group will meet again soon to check in with progress and make sure they are moving forward
- As a department, we accomplished a lot in regards to establishing committees and developing our department policies over the past year.

- With all of the expectations for participation in ad hoc committees, everyone will be participating in one way or another (e.g., in the P&T, mentoring, and curriculum committees)
- As we implement our new policies, we should report back about this progress and how it is going
- Undergraduate program updates:
  - Newly proposed TRAL program is progressing well through the CAT 1 progress
  - The Natural Resources program is implementing many action steps from the 10 year review
    - Ad Hoc curriculum committee is doing a holistic curriculum review
    - New option inside of NR is progressing well (led by Mark Harmon and Norm Johnson)
- Should we have a Faculty Retreat?
  - Steve Strauss has offered to talk amongst faculty to see if members want to do this
  - Not clear as to who would be invited or what the topics would be
  - On-campus graduate curriculum committee suggests talking about the on campus graduate program curriculum
- Departmental Advisory Committee
  - Has not met in some time
  - One big topic is how we will award discretionary funds- the actual process of choosing who gets them and for what
    - We have used some of them already (e.g., computer replacements)
- Topics for future meetings:
  - Michael Collins to talk about college marketing and communication
  - Randy Rosenberger to come and talk about undergraduate recruitment and retention
  - Representatives from our graduate awards/scholarship committee to talk about what awards/scholarships we have and the process of awarding them
  - Anthony Davis to come and talk about his priorities for our college

### **Western Forestry Graduate Research Symposium (WFGRS) Presented by Karla Jarecke**

- Theme for this year is Communication of Science to Society
- Will occur on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April; Abstract deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup>
- Accepting poster and oral presentations
- Fun Run for the event at 7 a.m.
- What they need from Faculty and Staff: to be judges for posters and oral presentations (as many as they can get!)
- You do not have to be a College of Forestry student to do this symposium or have research in the forest
- New Graduate students to FES will be required to do a proposal poster
- Key Note Speaker is Teresa Cohn
- Schedule for the event and key note speaker will be posted soon on the website for WFGRS
- Any recommendations for the event are welcomed at this planning stage
- Maybe having a film crew to tape somethings

- Questions:
  - Have you considered how to integrate any online or distance students into this symposium?
    - Not yet, but we are up for suggestions
  - How many faculty are needed for this event?
    - As many as we can get. It is okay to have more than 1 judge per session

### **Overview of the College Forests (Presented by Stephen Fitzgerald)**

- The college forests have changed over the years, in many aspects
- Currently the College Forests are open for the following:
  - Recreation use
  - Research use
  - Learning and teaching
  - Timber harvest
- We were not always a research and recreation forest
  - Started in the 1920s when the more parts were donated
- Local to Corvallis are 3 larger forests: Dunn, McDonald, and Cameron
  - The exception is a small inholding of Starker-owned land (we are deciding on how to handle this currently, do we trade or sell for this?)
- 9 tracts all over Oregon with 11,500 acres of land
  - The newest piece was received in 2015
  - Coordination with Extension allows us to manage all of the tracts well
- The Peavy Arboretum
  - One of the most popular locations for locals
  - Was created in the beginning of the forest's time and used to be used for a lot of different things
  - The only original building is an old barn, but we cannot salvage it due to its historic regulations
- Current big task for the college of Forestry and the forests is to come up with a new forest management and usage plan for all of the forests we own
  - Ideally we will have umbrella goals that will apply to all of the land we own and then very specific action oriented plans for each individual forest
  - Survey will come out soon to all COF members and some groups outside of the college seeking input about these plans
- Research in the Forest
  - Includes many joint projects between different groups
  - Conducted by staff, faculty, some students
  - Can be short term or long term projects
    - Still have a research project that was established at the beginning of the forest opening
    - Allows us to have an extensive research database
  - Strive to have transparency in what we do with and to the forests the college owns

- If you want to conduct research in the forests owned by the College, then contact Stephen Fitzgerald
- Many restoration and recreation projects happen in the forest
  - Mostly volunteer driven
    - Do have coordination from a few staff who manage projects and give groups guidance (Ryan Brown and Matt)
      - Volunteers are very valuable ( avg. hourly value is \$23)
  - Strive to meet all recreation demands, but it is hard and requires a lot of collaboration from all groups
  - This is why transparency and communication are so necessary for all of the groups who use forests
  - We do make some money from our recreation groups
- COF uses (other than research and recreation):
  - Timber Harvest
    - Average 7 million board ft. per year from 3 forests
    - Helps with costs of maintaining forests and staffing forests
    - Hoping to have different ideas with the new surveys
  - Educational for all different groups
  - Student logging crew
  - Other student jobs to help with running and management of the forest
- Many things need to still be done in the forests (thinning, clear cuts, etc.) to maintain optimal health
- Questions:
  - Does the college forest need more staff or different resources to keep it healthy and functioning as optimal as possible?
    - More specific jobs would be helpful, but not just more people
  - Does the College have a current plan for another economic down turn?
    - One of our big problems is that we have these really detailed forest plans with harvest schedules, but if those don't go to plan, then we are behind and off schedule, and then we are just doing things to keep going
    - If we need to save money, there are things we can do, just not suggested or best practices
    - We do have legal obligations that we need to maintain to keep functioning
    - In total about \$1 million per year is required to maintain and run the forests
  - Where is the Spalding tract?
    - It is in Corvallis
    - We are thinking of trading it with Starker for the land that is in the middle of our other forest
- If you have any other questions, please contact Steve Fitzgerald

## **Navigating Grant Reporting and Reimbursement Systems (GRRS) (Presented by Penny Wright)**

- The purpose of this systems it to keep all parties up to date on spending activities on grants. Especially the P.I.s
  - The idea is that P.I.s can check it every day and then they will always be in the know about their grant funding
- You sign in using MyOSU and it shows you all grants for you by index
- At this point in time, the system is not all available in the way we want it to be, so you have to use Core to drill down to find some specific things
- Using the U reports in CORE is most helpful to see all of the details for faculty and staff (searching by index)
- This system only tracks sponsored monies; if you want to know information for other information, you just use core.
  - Put your activity code in the index lookup at the bottom of you employee profile
  - It will show you the break down and all information for that activity code
  - If you click on “index detail”, it will show you all of the tracked information for that index
- SPA stands for Special Projects Accounting
  - All of your money is in there
- If you have questions about these systems, start with Misty and then she will point you to other people if she needs to
- Pat and Justin in the FOBC have been doing a lot of good work on tasks like these and helping with OSRAA
  - They are not experts on your grants and your spending, so you need to pay attention to what is going on
- Pat and Justin have put the offer out to meet with people and help them go through the checking process and submit things through OSRAA
  - They prefer this to the last minute panic of a document being due in few hours
- Some questions/ wording to keep in mind when you are talking with the business center about grants:
  - Is this changing the scope of work?
  - Are you disengaging from the project?
  - It is possible to put in extra effort at the end of a project?
  - If Justin suggests a sentence or phrasing to you, then use it
  - And don't say that “you are spending out a grant” – expenses need to be legitimate.
- Working with OSRAA is getting more challenging, we are here to help
- You should pay attention to when your grants are closing and when things need to be submitted
  - Sometimes it is 90 days, sometimes it is 30, just pay attention to what OSRAA tells you
- Penny is going to work on finding further information and/ or how you all can drill down further in GRRS in order to see all of the information faculty need to be fully aware of their grant status

## **FES on-campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (Presented by Lisa Ganio)**

- Results of the survey showed that faculty prefer either a small number of required courses for grad students or a small number of strongly recommended courses for the program
- We need to identify which courses these would be
  - We have FES 520 and FES 521, but they would need modifications
  - Should we do another survey to find out what we think would be best to be required
  - We do have a new course developed, but would need to be team taught.
    - Note: faculty still have our assigned responsibilities, so adding another course will be more work for someone
- Suggestions:
  - We should choose content based on our department goals
    - Faculty could alternate offerings (alternate years) with other courses to alleviate work load (if you want new classes to be created)
  - Base courses on the learning outcomes and what needs to be addressed better
  - Base requirements off of the suggested groupings on the FES website
  - Create a module system with in a course (noted that this was tried before and did not work well)
- The graduate student consensus was to leave the curriculum as is
  - A student suggested resending the survey with a more clear explanation of what the survey is trying to accomplish
- What is the committee's goals and plan for the end of the year?
  - They want to create a committee vision
  - Need to make a final decision on graduate curriculum, as it has been discussed many times before
  - Plan is to come up with a final suggestion soon and then vote on it at a department meeting this academic year
- For questions, comments, or ideas contact Lisa Ganio