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
  o Our College budget is in okay shape- no major concerns
• Fall term happenings to know about:
  o 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
  o We did not get a lot of answers that were enthusiastically “yes” to hold a retreat
  o We will select a date and then if we can’t get enough people, then we will cancel
  o Mondays and Tuesdays in October are the dates we are looking at
• Building
  o Mock up is being worked on now to show how the CLT panels will look
  o The goal is to start the foundation in the end of June
  o Prices are higher than we got estimates for, but there is a plan to cover the $11 million difference
  o 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
  o No concrete details about timeline as of now
  o Timber framing should begin in October
  o AWP will be started later than originally planned
  o We are still working with the assumption that in Fall 2018 offices will be open and
    Classrooms usable during Spring 2019
  o 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
  o So work with Misty if you are unsure about moving money or if you want to move it
• DocuSign
  o you need to sign up for this program to use it
  o You can use this program on your phone or tablet
  o Misty will send out an email to register
  o 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
  o A lot of learning has happened for me in the past months
  o 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?
  o Which part exactly can be worked through?
Our goal is to 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.
  - Especially 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).