

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Meeting
March 5, 2010, 1:00 PM
315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items: Dr. Hallerman presented a prospective view of the departmental budget. We will have to give back 1% of this year's budget. We expect a 3% cut to base for 208 next FY, to become a 15% cut the following FY. The cut to our agency 229 base is still unclear. Against this background, Dr. Hallerman calls for requests for GTA, PhD2010, and tuition waivers for graduate students for AY 2010-2011. Developments to watch for include the budget ultimately adopted by the General Assembly, the expected tuition rise (9-10%?) and distribution of the dollars so raised, and the effects of reorganization of agency 229.

Director of Development Bob Mollenhauer is working part-time with CALS now.

The National Research Council will rank doctoral programs, including fisheries and wildlife programs.

The undergraduate Marine Fisheries option was approved by the Commission on Undergraduate Curriculum. The graduate Certificate in Quantitative Resources Assessment was approved with minor revisions by the Student Policy and Affairs Committee.

The 8th Biennial Conference on University Education in Natural Resources will be held at VT Thursday –Saturday, March 25-27. For details, visit:
<http://www.cpe.vt.edu/cuenr/index.html>

Upcoming are Graduate Education Week (week of March 22) and the GSA Research Symposium (March 24 – call for abstracts at:
<https://secure.grads.vt.edu/weblog/monthlymemo/2010/02/11/1265920560000.html>). The keynote speaker will be Dr. Andrew Weaver, a leader of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dr. Ronald J. Kendall will receive the Jerry Cross Alumni Leadership Award week of April 5. Details will follow.

The SACS reaccreditation and Academic Program Review are ongoing. For details, visit: <http://www.sacs.vt.edu/>. Visit: <http://www.fishwild.vt.edu/faculty.htm> to learn more about our contribution within that larger process (please email tvipperm@vt.edu for password and username). The SACS on-site team will be on campus March 16-18.

The Undergraduate Student Leadership Institute will begin fall 2010. Steve McMullin will direct it.

The Outstanding CNR graduate students this year are Brian Gerber (M.S.) and Nick Lapointe (Ph.D.).

FiW advisors will meet with Suzie Leslie at 1:00 PM on Friday March 19.

Dr. Hallerman discussed a campus initiative to promote community service through an Americorps matching program.

2. CNR Showcase will be held 10AM-7PM, Tuesday, April 6. It will replace the awards banquet of past years, and also will serve to recruit students to CNR, and to showcase academic and research accomplishments. This year, it will include a concert by noted pianist Chuck Leavell. The department and curriculum clubs will set up displays. We agreed that that should include about two displays per research group.
3. Sustainability major. Dr. Hallerman reported that the effort to approve the proposed major in Sustainable Natural Resources and Environment has stalled because it represents more than a 25% revision of existing degree programs in the college. A formal degree proposal will be prepared and submitted to SCHEV.
Hallerman asked, should CNR offer Sustainability I in Fall 2010, should FiW faculty teach it? Consensus emerged that we'd like to see the syllabus and perhaps also have a discussion with Bruce Hull before deciding our level of involvement.
4. Quality of OSP service? Dr. Orth has been frustrated with the quality of service from OSP. Discussion revealed that he was not alone in this regard. Hallerman will raise the issue with appropriate bodies on campus.
5. Departmental name change? Dr. Hallerman noted that the Department of Forestry is now the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, that the College is looking to change its name to the College of Natural Resources and Environment, and that the Department of Wood Science and Forest Products may change its name. Picking up a discussion started months ago, Hallerman asked whether we might change our name to the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences. There also was support for changing our name to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Sciences. Hallerman will produce a paper ballot to vote on these names, also listing the current name of the department. Voting will open very soon.
6. Field season paperwork. Susan Archer presented an idea for easing submission of paperwork during the field season. She will provide postage-paid, pre-addressed envelopes to crews to take to the field for weekly mailings. The faculty saw the benefit and asked her to go forward with the plan.
7. Is there interest in FiW in on-line education? Faculty are interested in developing and offering online courses if and only if benefits flow back to the department and faculty member. Under the current model, there is no incentive to develop and offer an on-line

course. Hallerman will communicate the outcome of this discussion to Janaki Alavalapati, who is interacting with IDDL on such matters.

8. Reports:

- Dr. Hallerman relayed Dr. Angermeier's update on the search for the VCFWRU Unit Leader. Eleven people applied, of whom four are seen as strong candidates. Watch for interviews this spring.
- The NMFS and USFS units had no reports.
- Graduate students – no report.
- Staff – no report.

Adjourn