

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Meeting
April 25, 2011, 10:00 AM, 315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items: Dr. Hallerman reported that:

- Annual reports are due to Dr. Hallerman on May 15, so he can have the departmental summary report to Paul Winistorfer by June 1. He has not yet received direction from the Dean regarding format and content desired. In any case, with your annual report, please include syllabi from your undergraduate courses in order to support curricular review efforts that will be ongoing this summer.
- Status of degree proposals to SCHEV:
 - February 2011 – A draft proposal for a Bachelor’s Degree in Fish and Wildlife Conservation was sent forward to SCHEV liaison Robin Panneton.
 - March 2011 – Comments received back from Dr. Panneton were such that the following revisions to the proposal will be made: Separate degree proposals for Fish Conservation and Wildlife Conservation will be prepared. Papers, assessments, and essays will be cited to build a stronger justification for the proposed degrees. Existing FTEs committed to teaching core courses will be listed. A survey for student interest was developed and is currently on line. Job announcements will be presented in the desired format.
- Prospective view:
 - Complete survey of interest this semester.
 - Revise proposals for review by Stauffer and Panneton – June.
 - Revisions – summer.
 - Place proposals into governance – August.
- The search is ongoing for a mammalogy/conservation biology instructor for fall.

2. Matters regarding curriculum:

- Dr. Hallerman distributed a list of tentative GTA assignments for next academic year. No issues were noted.
- Dr. Hallerman reported major outcomes of an April 6 section meeting regarding curricular developments in wildlife:
 - Jim Fraser et al. will prepare a proposal for a coastal ecology major. Jim F. and Sarah Karpanty met with Associate Provost Daniel Wubah, who seems very interested.
 - Eric Hallerman will prepare a proposal asking the provost for faculty lines for – ologies (on hold until coastal ecology and herpetology are resolved).
 - Carola Haas will prepare prospectuses for herpetology and for a senior graduate student-led version of wildlife field biology.
- Dr. Hallerman announced a retreat to focus on curriculum in August to go over Student Learning Outcomes and to map them to courses for each major, maybe on August 10, 11, or 12. There will be a plenary session focusing on degree objectives and what employers say about knowledge and skills needed to succeed in entry-level positions. The two sections then will break out to address knowledge and skill components we are providing now, gaps in our program, and how will we address those gaps. A working group will meet through the summer to prepare for the retreat.

3. Reports:

- Units: Mark Ford reported that a letter from Drs. Hallerman and Winistorfer to the Coop Unit system office in Reston had some effect, and if the federal budget is adequate, we may

have the opportunity to fill the third position in the Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Jess Jones reported that the USFWS unit will hire a student to help Bill Henley with his histology work, and that he may be searching for a new graduate student for fall. Upgrades to the Aquaculture Center are ongoing.

- Graduate students: Christine Bergeron reported that the graduate students association will be electing its officers for next year very soon, and asked faculty members to encourage their students to stand for election.

Adjourn