

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Meeting
February 18, 2011, 2:00 PM, 315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items:

- Dr. Hallerman noted that newly-recruited faculty member Andrew Rypel will join us in early August.
- Dr. Hallerman has written a proposal for a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Conservation to be submitted to university governance and onward to SCHEV. There will be three tracks, freshwater fish conservation, marine fish conservation, and wildlife conservation. The proposal has been submitted to SCHEV liaison Robin Panneton for comment. Upon revision, the proposal will be submitted to governance later this spring.

2. Two upcoming events: Dr. Hallerman announced two upcoming College events.

- Undergraduate Recruitment Saturday to be held March 19. This program mostly will target students already enrolled at Virginia Tech, although there will be outreach to high school counselors, and so there may be prospective VT students in attendance as well. To realize the plans, we will need graduate student volunteers, research posters, the departmental display, and showy items such as an electroshocking boat and biotelemetry equipment.
- CNRE Recognition Banquet to be held 6:30 PM, 31 March, Squires – Commonwealth Ballroom. The meal will be free – courtesy of the College – with catering by Two Trees. Dr. Hallerman asked faculty to send forward research posters to display, as well as electronic images of students in laboratory or field for a rolling Powerpoint presentation.

3. Discussion of possible new department in CNRE: Dr. Hallerman led the discussion of points raised by Dean Winistorfer in the general meeting of College faculty on Friday, February 11. How should the College expand its academic footprint and achieve growth, perhaps though offering a degree focusing upon water, perhaps involving a new department? The ensuing discussion included the following points. Several faculty members suggested that the new program might include watershed restoration. There was concern about how the new program might “fit” within the college. There was general support for the notion that the new program might offer a B.A. as opposed to or in addition to a B.S. Considerable discussion addressed the relation of any new program to “sustainability”, with some faculty suggesting that a B.A. in sustainability would indeed grow the undergraduate program. There was some concern about developing a whole new department, and upon what it might focus, water or sustainability. Several people noted that the new faculty recruits would present lots of potential collaborations, and that new and established faculty members might have joint appointments. Some faculty suggested that colleagues in CSES, BSE, and CEE be brought into the discussion at a well-considered point. One faculty member noted that the fisheries section cannot “spare” anyone to join a new department and still maintain its slate of classes. Noting that the promise of new

faculty lines was to be spread over five years, some faculty were concerned about whether the President and Provost might still be here to make good on the promise towards the end of that period. Jim Fraser presented a concept on a Coastal Ecology and Conservation major, which many found of interest – Hallerman agreed to forward it to the Dean. Several faculty asked about the degree to which the new program might consider international conservation.

4. Reports:

- Units: Jim Berkson noted that the call for proposals for renewal of the NMFS-VT RTR Unit has been released. A VT-led proposal is under development.
- Graduate students: Christine Bergeron reported that the visit of Dan Simberloff went very well, and that his seminar was very well attended.

Adjourn