

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Meeting  
January 20, 2012, 2:00 PM  
315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items. Dr. Hallerman noted that:

- Future departmental meetings will be held on February 24, March 23, and April 20. Please mark your calendars.
- We will have a departmental GIS course this fall, an FiW 4984 organized by Jane Argentina and Beatriz Mogollon. It will be held from 10-12 on Fridays to minimize conflict with other key courses.
- Update on the University long-range plan –The Long-Range Planning Task Force is reaching the end of its task. Some key points are that Tech will not grow dramatically, there will be focus on STEMH, and there will be increased emphasis on assessing the impact of the university on society and the economy. Under discussion are the possibility of a trimester system or enhancement of summer school, global engagement (Tech may focus on some partnerships with key institutions in selected countries), leveraging technology in pedagogy, research and engagement, and defining a fast-track for selected items in governance. Look at their website for key points: [www.longrangeplan.vt.edu](http://www.longrangeplan.vt.edu). The process going forward is for February presentations to Academic Council, the Long-range Planning Task Force again, University Council and the University community, and in March to the Board of Visitors. Assuming it passes muster that far, it is the President's plan to implement – providing the basis for our usual six-year Strategic Plans. This is your last, best chance to influence the outcome. To submit your comments, visit the blog at: <http://blogs.is.vt.edu/longrangeplan/>.
- Dr. Hallerman will be organizing GTA, PhD2010, and tuition waivers for next academic year soon – please send me a summary of your needs by February 3.
- Please do your part to complete inventory – Dana sent a list of orphan items via email on January 17.

2. Vehicle assignments for upcoming field season. Dr. Hallerman handed out the draft vehicle assignment list for field season 2012. Minor issues needing resolution were identified, and will be resolved before field season commences.

3. Undergraduate curriculum. Drs. Hallerman and Hopkins distributed the current version of the experiential learning proposal. The discussion turned in large part on how to implement such a program without creating a large workload. There seemed to be consensus on using existing mechanisms (independent study, undergraduate research, and study abroad) to the degree possible. There will need to be a mechanism for

capturing internships within our system for sanctioning experiential learning. There seemed to be little support for the concept of a research symposium. Drs. Hallerman and Hopkins will take the input and create a new version of the proposal for future discussion.

#### 4. Reports

- USGS: Mark Ford sent forward a report that the initial FY2012 budget has been provided, covering salaries and a token amount of operating. There is no chance of filling the third Unit position in FY12.
- USFWS – Jess Jones noted that five researchers now have projects underway at the revamped aquaculture center. He suggested that a future departmental meeting be held there to show the new developments.
- Grad students – Yaw Ansah reported that with six new graduate students, desks were fully subscribed and some students share desks. To support a more effective mentorship system, he asked for access to names and contact information for incoming graduate students before they come to Blacksburg.

Adjourn