

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Meeting
November 16, 2011, 4:00 PM
315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items:

- The revised proposal for a B.S. degree in Fish and Wildlife Conservation was submitted to SCHEV liaison Robin Panneton on October 26. Dr. Hallerman expects to receive comments, make revisions, and submit the proposal to governance in the coming weeks.
- If you are willing to host MAOP interns this summer, please write a paragraph describing your needs and submit them to Dr. Hallerman to forward to the MAOP office by December 1.
- Room 212 Cheatham will be remodeled. Faculty suggested possible upgrades to provide electricity to students with laptops and whiteboards along the walls to support group work.

2. Virginia Tech Long-Range Plan. Dr. Hallerman asked faculty to review the Virginia Tech Long-Range Plan, which can be accessed at: <http://longrangeplan.vt.edu/>. He reviewed key elements of the plan, which include growth of the graduate student body, especially doctoral students, by a projected 1,000, and only modest growth of the undergraduate student body. Attention to deficits in staffing and infrastructure must be addressed. A faculty of health sciences is envisioned. Sarah Karpanty, who is a member of the planning task force, told the group that there are opportunities to provide comments on the plan on a blog that can be accessed from the website. Also, Dr. Hallerman and the CNRE leadership team will have a meeting with a representative of the planning group on December 5.

3. Budget request. Dr. Hallerman presented a draft statement of budget request items for the department, which was followed by discussion and revisions of the list. Faculty lines to be requested include an applied mammalian ecology, estuarine ecology and conservation, coastal wetland ecology and conservation, and coastal invertebrate biology. One of these recruits might be an individual with strong quantitative skills to strengthen those aspects of our overall program. We also will seek renovations to room 133 and 113 and support for construction of phase I of the wildlife research center.

4. Michael Hutchins as adjunct? Michael Hutchins, Executive Director of TWS, is interested in building a stronger relationship with Virginia Tech. He expressed interest in securing an adjunct appointment at VT and seemed eager to be an active contributor to our department, perhaps to the point of teaching a special topics or seminar course. The faculty will familiarize themselves with his qualifications for a substantive discussion at our next departmental meeting.

5. Undergraduate curriculum. Brian Murphy raised a fisheries advising issue. Some students, especially transfer students, are looking to take Fisheries Management, our capstone class, at the same time that they are taking Ichthyology, Fish Ecology, and Populations Dynamics and Estimation. They are not yet ready to integrate the knowledge in these courses. We decided to add these courses as pre-requisites for Fisheries Management. In the meantime, Dr. Murphy will counsel these students to delay taking Fisheries Management.

6. Reports

- USGS – Mark Ford reported that while the USGS-BRD has no budget for FY2012, RWOs are still being processed.
- NMFS – This being his last meeting with the group before moving to the University of Florida, Jim Berkson thanked faculty for thirteen years of positive interactions.
- Grad students – Corey Dunn asked the faculty to consider the possibility of options other than the existing Biometry and Statistics in Research courses that currently are widely taken by our graduate students. Perhaps Statistics might offer special sections for our students or we might offer our own course. Graduate students do not find room 113 a quality work space. Dr. Hallerman said he would look into renovating that space.

Adjourn