

Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Meeting
October 19, 2011, 4:00 PM
315 Cheatham Hall

Minutes

1. Information items

- Kudos were given for:
 - Outstanding Recent Undergraduate Alumna: Erica Santana (Wildlife Sci., 2005)
 - Wildlife Society Publication Award for a monograph: Jonathan B. Cohen, Lawrence M. Houghton, James D. Fraser. 2009. Nesting density and reproductive success of piping plovers in response to storm- and human-created habitat changes. Wildlife Society Monographs, No. 173.
- The CNRE Career Fair will be held November 10, 2011.
- IT security – please check your computers for personal identifier information – social security numbers, birthdays, and such – as they may be subject to hacking. Please either dispose of the files or purge out just those fields. Lon Weber has a program that can help you, making the task fast and easy.
- The CVC Campaign is ongoing – please donate.
- Kathy Alexander introduced new post-doc Sarah Jobbins, who will be joining her group to perform research on disease transmission among humans and animals.
- Susan Archer asked groups to have all deliveries made to 106 Cheatham, not to individual laboratories, and to be sure to turn in packing slips so that we know that an order has been received.

2. South Sudan – natural resources management. Theo Dilleha (PI on a USAID grant to provide aid to South Sudan) spoke to us on the developing project there. While the first round of projects will focus on increasing agricultural production, a second round will also address natural resources-related issues, including fisheries and wildlife. The purpose of this talk was to inform our department about the opportunities, which could include advising South Sudanese graduate students, collaborative projects, and support for U.S. graduate students doing research in Sudan. Drs. Dilleha will identify appropriate opportunities for our involvement during his upcoming visits to South Sudan. He and Dr. Hallerman then will meet to identify possible linkages of need with the interests and expertise of individual faculty members.

3. Coastal Ecology and Management proposal. Dr. Fraser led a discussion of the developing proposal for a degree in Coastal Ecology and Conservation. He laid out the case for programmatic need, described the proposed program, and set out the resources needed. He made clear the path forward, including the requirement that we gain commitments for the resources needed before we would undertake to offer the program. In particular, we would ask the VT administration for six faculty lines – four in our department – in order to realize this program. Discussion of the proposal was positive in tone. After about 20 minutes of discussion, a faculty vote was unanimous in favor. The steering committee (Fraser, Karpanty, Rypel, Jiao, Orth, Catlin, and

Ritter) and Dr. Hallerman will bring the proposal and the results of the vote to the attention of Dean Winistorfer.

4. Undergraduate curriculum – Bill Hopkins presented the draft memos detailing proposed changes to the fisheries science and wildlife science checksheets for students graduating in 2014. He asked all faculty to closely check the memos and checksheets for any errors or oversights. Revised checksheets are due at noon on Friday, October 21.

5. Reports

- Federal units – do not yet know their FY12 budgets.
- Grad students – Corey Dunn asked faculty to tell the graduate students about incoming students for spring semester so they can be absorbed smoothly with assignment of mentors and such.

Adjourn