

Fall 2012 – College of Natural Resources Faculty Meeting

21 September 2012 – Faculty Lounge, Brink Hall, University of Idaho

Meeting opened by Karen Launchbaugh, CNR Faculty Secretary

Attending: Alistair Smith, Anthony Davis, Chris Caudill, Christine Moffitt, Courtney Conway, David Tank, Dennis Scarnecchia, Frank Wilhelm, Jay O’Laughlin, Jo Ellen Force, Karen Launchbaugh, Katy Kavanagh, Kelly Wendland, Ken Cain, Kerri Vierling, Kerry Reese, Kurt Pregitzer, Lee Vierling, Lisette Waits, Luigi Boschetti, Mark Coleman, Penny Morgan, Robert Keefe, Tim Link, Tom Gorman, Troy Hall

Motion to approve minutes from the April 5, 2012 meeting made by Jay O’Laughlin. Seconded by Frank Wilhelm and passed unanimously.

University and College-Wide Committees:

- **Faculty Senate** update by Alistair Smith
 - It is the senate’s intention to renovate this room (Brink Hall Faculty Lounge). Keeping historic items (e.g., light fixtures) and create a more functional space.
 - An initiative led by students and supported by faculty senate is underway to ban all tobacco products on campus.
 - Another action under way is to completely change email system in the near future. The current e-mail system is over 10 years old and needs to be updated. The UI administration reminds faculty and staff to be sure to retain necessary emails.
- **Research Council** update by Brian Kennedy
 - Brief update on research council (distributed at the meeting).
- **Graduate Council** update by Courtney Conway
 - No report yet – first meeting is next Wednesday. He will keep us updated.
- **CNR Graduate Program** update by Troy Hall
 - Lots of issues underway including policies regarding RAs and tuition waivers.
 - Troy is taking lead on assessment activities for MS and Ph.D. in Natural Resources. These programs have not received formal assessment in several years. Ron Robberecht does a great job on the Masters of Natural Resources (MNR). Assessment is a high priority for the University and we need to take the time to do it well.
 - Troy is also working on templates for standard offer letters for graduate student programs.
 - A reminder that approval of all graduate study plans receive college approval by Dr. Hall. This is not an efficient process at this time so she is trying to develop a better approval process.

State of the College update by Dean Kurt Pregitzer

- **Enrollment Trends** - There continues to be tremendous emphasis on enrollment across campus specifically related to undergraduate enrollments. Happy to report that CNR enrollment is up this year. Only 3 colleges had increased enrollment across campus. UI enrollment is down approximately 600 students for fall 2012. Heather Page and her team have been doing a great job in advising and recruiting and CNR is getting inquiries from other colleges on campus regarding our process. Dr. Pregitzer believes we’ll continue to see a push to increase enrollment.

- **UI Goals** - The UI 2020 group is a group of senior administrators including Dean Pregitzer looking at ways to achieve Strategic Planning goals over the next decade. The 2020 group is discussing connections between STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education, enrollment, research, and graduate education. The group is looking at steps we need to take now to get where we want to be in 2020.
- **College Budget** - Dean Pregitzer is trying to move us to a more solid financial situation. Research expenditures continue to increase in CNR, indirect cost recovery has gone up every year, and percentage of total UI expenditures has remained the same (see attached document). Research awards to CNR were highest among colleges in FY 2012. Dean Pregitzer noted that this is pretty remarkable and we are increasingly recognized for our ability to conduct research and train graduate students. This has giving CNR quite a bit of trust at the President- and Provost- level. Reviewed FY12 Revenue Distribution and Awards.

CNR has about \$500 K salary gap (i.e., gap between formula or hard funding and soft budget dollars). We will work on reducing this gap over the next 36-48 months. One way to reduce the gap is to fill administrative positions internally as being done to fill the Associate Dean and Department Head position in FRFS. Dr. Pregitzer noted that we want to move to a position where our cash flow is really in line with current commitments, and we have money to support faculty and staff.

- **Hiring plan:** We're just about to announce a new Associate Dean position that will accept internal candidates only. An internal search for Department Head in FRFS will also be announced soon. We just got approval to search for a faculty member to lead the Park Studies Unit (PSU) -- probably at the associate professor level in CSS to lead PSU. A population ecologist position in FWS is currently open (9 applicants so far) and it will close October 12.

New Degree Proposal: Heather Page, Director of CNR Student Services, shared input on the proposed program changes. Heather noted that she and her staff visit with students during recruiting who express interest in institutions offering a broad natural resource degree that combines classes from several disciplines. An interdisciplinary and broadly focused natural resource degree would help us in recruiting.

Troy Hall reported on strategic planning discussions in the Conservation Social Sciences (CSS) Department that lead to proposing a revision of their Resource Recreation and Tourism (RRT) degree to create a new general natural resources degree. An interdisciplinary focus of the degree would allow incorporation of classes from all departments across the college. At peer institutions these broadly focused natural resources degrees are rapidly growing and are very popular degree programs. It is also believed that this degree will create curriculum flexibility and create a pipeline for more students from community colleges into CNR. Heather Page does not perceive this proposed degree taking away from other degree programs. Plus, this may help us attract students that would otherwise end up in general studies at UI. Katy Kavanagh asked how prevalent it is that we lose students to general studies. Heather answered that there are no stats on that but she believes it is up to a dozen students each year. Penny Morgan questioned the term "interdisciplinary" used by Heather. The other interdisciplinary degree in CNR is the Ecology and Conservation Biology (ECB) degree. The proposed degree and ECB should both be promoted as interdisciplinary degrees though the requirements of these degrees vary. There also was concern that the Environmental Science program may not support this degree. Troy Hall reported that Ed Krumpe presented the proposed degree to the Env. Sci. core faculty and no opposition was received.

Dr. Hall explained that several details are not yet confirmed for this degree. For example, the name is still under discussion. Input from colleagues and students indicate that the word “conservation” is appealing and integral to the goal of the degree. The CSS faculty will advise upper division students. It was discussed that faculty from other departments may want to be involved in advising or degree changes because of reliance on courses in other departments. It was suggested that an advisory committee made up of representatives from other CNR degree programs be formed to help oversee the proposed degree.

Dean Pregitzer mentioned that UI’s core mission, according to the SBOE, includes law, architecture, agriculture, and natural resources. CNR is been getting pressure from satellite campuses, especially Boise, to begin to deliver more courses in the Treasure Valley. This broadly focused natural resources degree may facilitate our efforts to offer degree options at the satellite campuses. Dean Pregitzer also noted that if we are able to grow our undergraduate programs we will gain favor from the President and Provost. The more we’re viewed as proactive and innovative, the more we’ll see in terms of resources. Dean Pregitzer sees this degree as an opportunity, not a threat. If it doesn’t work, we can change it. Dean Pregitzer believes this is a market for students who are not certain of their career goals. This proposed degree program will give students options.

There was significant discussion that BIOL 102 was not sufficient for a degree in CNR. Troy respected the suggestion and will change requirement to BIOL 115 for this degree.

The degree proposal was discussed by the CNR Curriculum Committee last week. Members voted to approve. Karen sent it out for a 5-day comment period. As of 1:30 this afternoon there have been 4 objections. If there are 5 objections, we will bring it to college-wide vote. If not, it will be forwarded to UCC. If you have an objection, let Troy know and we’ll call for a college-wide vote.

Direct and Indirect Cost Recovery: Proposed draft policies were presented for CNR policies on Direct/Indirect Cost Recover and also for Salary Release. These policies have been discussed at college and department meetings over the past year. Both policies are designed to incentivize faculty and raise direct/indirect costs in the college. Discussion on the policies ensued and a need for clarification on a few points was noted.

- Requested clarifications to the policy will be made and a vote will commence electronically.

CNR Faculty Mentoring Policy: The mentoring policy was discussed in spring 2012. However, the policy was not brought to a faculty vote. A copy of the proposed policy will be circulated and a vote on the CNR Mentoring Policy will take place this fall.

Announcements:

- Congrats to MOSS for winning the Albertson Foundation ID21 award for creative and innovative educational practices.
- Welcome to Luigi Boschetti and Rob Keefe - new faculty members in Forest, Rangeland, & Fire Sciences
- CNR Football Tailgates Events tomorrow (22-Sep-12)

Troy Hall motioned to adjourn meeting. Rob Keefe seconded. Karen Launchbaugh adjourned meeting.