

Department Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday 03/29/24
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., River Road 325 & Zoom

[Minutes from last meeting](#) accepted and agenda approved.

Full room

Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda

- Campus Updates
- Commencement Updates: Re (staffing, form is due 4/1; regalia for form student is due 4/1 (for students) and regalia form for faculty is due April 12. Marshal is Yiqun Xie.
- New Hires:
 - Naielia Allen, Senior Program Manager will be introduced at the next meeting.
 - Arti Tiwari, Post-Doctoral Associate (to be introduced by Sergii Skakun), focuses in remote sensing
 - Nataliia Kussul, Associate Research Professor (to be introduced by Sergii Skakun), from Ukraine, will work in Harvest Program
- Other updates: A GEOG graduate student was detained and had his visa revoked when traveling back from China, despite a valid visa. Student remains a member of the department while this issue is being sorted out with guidance from UMD. Travelers from China, Russia, Iran and North Korea are receiving intense scrutiny.
 - Recommendation to avoid travel if possible and use GEOG chair or their advisor, as emergency contact.
 - Traveling with a UMD device (for example, laptop) is discouraged.
 - Suggestion: letter from Department, do's and don'ts; reach out to AAG about GIS and remote sensing, which have been flagged as a national security threats.
 - Do not sign anything by CBP without
 - Be careful about who you are collaborating with.

IT Issues - John Jasen

- Python version 2 has been retired by the maintainers, with no further support. People using python 2.7 or earlier should start testing and transitioning to Python 3.x.
- Redhat Enterprise Linux 7 will be going end of life this year. We have deployed test systems in the GEOG cluster (gsappx1, 2 and 3) to facilitate testing. It's our plan to have upgrades complete by late Fall 2024.
- If you have not completed "Defending Your Shell", please do so. DivIT will start enforcing warning messages and authentication delays for people not completing their annual security training.
- ArcGIS Desktop, also known as ArcMap, will no longer work on September 1. Please start transitioning to ArcGIS Pro.
- Apple systems from 2018 and prior will no longer be supportable in November 2024. Additionally, everyone else needs to upgrade to MacOS Sonoma before November 2024. GEOG IT will be reaching out to users individually.

Director of International Affairs - Mengxue Li

- Geo Center on the 2024 Graduate Travel Fellowships: Geo Center is committed to young scientists and to increase their profile internationally. More applications have been received. Five graduates have been selected as winners.

Associate Chair issues - George Hurtt

- Updates: Successful fundraising for High School uib. High School Banquet will be on April 16. Everyone is invited.
- 4/15 deadline for summer/fall TA/GRA swaps.

Graduate Director Academic Issues – DeFloriani & Haber

- 4/5 deadline for Baker Award nominations from faculty
- PhD admissions update: 11 offers sent; 3 pending, 2 declined and 6 accepted. If faculty is interested in submitting an offer, contact Rachel.
- Jingli Yang, HDGC and GIS 2024 summer fellowship calls are going out soon.
- Statement of mutual expectations. The statement is private, that can be used if needed, from RAs. It's option for the student

Faculty Specialist issues - Blake Munshell

- Discuss new FS activities document (no vote) to include people with specific job descriptions in order to facilitate or demote promotions.
- Vote on [Criteria for Assessing Merit for Professional Track \(PTK\) Faculty](#) to match other policies. Point on page 32 to match the language in the document. Vote: 36 in favor; none against it. Motion passed.

Lecturers' Issue - Jonathan Resop

- The lecturers are going to discuss at their next committee meeting (4/5) the topic of setting up a **voluntary system to help teaching faculty solicit and volunteer for peer teaching evaluations**. Rachel set up a draft of a sign-up system (you can find the [draft here](#)). Something to make it easier for teaching faculty who are interested in getting a peer teaching evaluation to connect with those to perform it. This system is still in preliminary discussions and we're open to feedback from the rest of GEOG.

Any Other Business

- Meredith Gore will be absent but sent this message: Campus Room AV Upgrades: There are 42 classrooms on the list to receive AV upgrades this summer, including LeFrak 2205. Gore has the complete list if anyone wants it.
- Matt Hansen has a new award.

More upcoming events:

- Today: Mentoring Lunch and Mentoring Talk with Research Faculty, 12:30 to 1:30 pm
- 4/16: High School Banquet, 6 to 8 pm in STAMP's Grand Ballroom

- 4/27: Maryland Day
- 5/10: Department Awards, 1 to 3 pm in STAMP's Prince George's room
- 5/17: Department Meeting, 10 am to 12:30 pm in River Road 325
- 5/17: Department Celebration, 12:30 to 2 pm in River Road 325
- 5/20: Campus Commencement, 6 pm at SECU Stadium
- 5/22: BSOS Commencement (GEOG), 7 to 10 pm at Xfinity Center