

Department Committee Meeting Agenda
Friday 3/31/23
Minutes

Accept minutes from last two meetings and approval of agenda

- Minutes accepted

Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda

- Personnel updates
 - John Jason has joined the department on the IT team
 - Another new person will be joining the IT team soon
 - New outreach specialist - Renata Johnson
 - Shannon Corrigan will be leaving the department but she will be helping out for at least the next two months
 - Obinna Anige will also be leaving to join a PhD program
- “Workday” heads up
 - It's going to replace multiple existing systems including financial, personal, HR, procurement
 - When it comes online there will be glitches
 - Before it comes online there will be a period when everything listed above will be frozen so that they can transfer the old system into the new system
 - They haven't announced the date yet
 - Anticipated date is July 17 with grace period starting in early May
- Merit updates
 - We still don't have the definitive “yes” but they're going to do it, high probability
 - “Yes” is likely to come next week because the MD assembly is scheduled to vote on the budget
 - Merit is not given as a percentage of salary, it is a certain amount of money
 - Merit is an augmentation, not a bonus
 - The merit is awarded for the calendar year 2022, has nothing to do with 2023
 - Amount is added to salary July 1, 2023
 - Some of the faculty don't know what to submit and asked for an extension of the submission deadline. Tatiana allowed it.
 - Action will be taken to update the merit specifically to research faculty
- UMD's Climate/School of Geosciences Potential - Loboda
 - The committee has received very broad charge from the president, who is looking to make a bold statement on the climate agenda - this may include discussing the UMD system
 - “Everything is on the table” - school, center, in any structure you want to consider
 - The committee includes a large number of representatives from units that would be directly opposed to this
 - The committee just started, but Tatiana would like to open discussion up to everyone about what they would like to see
 - The initiative would focus entirely on climate change with a coalition
 - Potential for the construction of one or two buildings to house the new unit?

- Departments will stay intact, so majors and teaching structure should not change too much
- Discussion summary:
 - Faculty discussed the possibility of creating a new academic structure focused on climate and its impact on people
 - The suggestion was to create a school for climate that would include representation from all social science and humanities departments, and possibly a new building.
 - However, there were concerns about leaving the current structure, the difficulty of defining what falls under "climate," and funding issues.
 - Participants emphasized the need for growth and new opportunities, with some suggesting that an independent school or college would make it easier to attract new students.
 - There was also discussion about the importance of maintaining faculty lines and ensuring that financial structures are in place, and the possibility of a new college or school is still being explored.
- The discussion will continue, with a recommendation to the president due by June.

Undergraduate Director Issues - Yearwood

- Report on the Career Fair
 - 51 students and 11 organizations
 - Most of the organizations have active full-time position and internship openings
 - The in-person event is more useful than the online event and they believe they can get more funding for it
 - Thanked the faculty who teach GIS and Remote Sensing - organizations were impressed
- Plans for course offerings for the summer to be finalized by the middle of next week, tentatively
 - Chris Justice asked what kind of training summer instructors will receive. He is concerned if the teacher is brand new.
 - Amanda Hall and another experienced person will teach, so that's a non issue.
 - There is an information center that offers resources for teaching and a procedure for selecting instructors
- Maryland Day
 - Saturday, April 29
 - Will be outdoors, looking for help
- Bit Camp
 - April 7-9

- BSOS is sponsoring, we have a booth
- CEOS Concentration
 - Wants to see Remote Sensing leadership reflected in the jobs that students are getting
 - Needs Remote Sensing people to let Keith know who the employers are so they can market it

Graduate Director Issues – De Floriani & Haber (presentation available [here](#))

- Admission offers
 - Have until April 15 to accept or decline our offer
 - Students on visa have until the end of July to be given an offer
 - View of demographics
 - Mostly international
 - No Hispanic or Latino
 - 4 female, 5 male
 - Only one is domestic and an ethnic category other than white
- Awardees (Flagship, President's, BSOS diversity, Wylie)
 - 3 flagship fellows, all coming next year
 - Nominated 2 president fellows, one awarded one was not - the one who got the fellowship is coming. The one who did not is TBD
 - The same applicant awarded the Presidential fellowship also got the BSOS diversity award
 - All three nominees — awarded the Wylie Fellowship
- August orientation: reserve the week of 8/21; PAC schedule coming soon.
 - The committee has been put together
 - Haley, Judith, Victor and Alice will be on the committee
 - Reserve whole week of 8/21 for faculty events
 - More dates will be sent out soon
 - Students will meet on campus throughout the month of August (starting 8/7)
 - PAC schedules will be coming soon - they will be in person and all advisors in RR will be on the first day, all advisors in LeFrak will be the second day
 - Leilia D. will take emergency zoom requests
 - Leila D. will continue working on increasing diversity and will discuss with the committee regarding this
 - Certain countries are difficult to get students to the US from so they are learning more about that and figuring out which countries this applies to
- TA/RA swap policy and deadlines review.

Research Faculty Committee – Humber

- Voted on - The Meritorious Activities Reporting - Professional Track Faculty
 - Vote passed
- Template for the research faculty merit review procedure up for a vote.
 - Make the criteria: people are being evaluated against more transparent
 - Streamline — (something about merit packages)

- Broadening secondary criteria
- New change - provision where the applicant explains what their responsibilities are
- Moved the ranking for service into a more umbrella category

International GeoCenter Task Force – Chris Justice

- Developed the fellowship but nobody has used it. They are launching it again. They can support those who have students who want to participate in international collaboration, so please reach out
- Can support seminars and training for international programs
- Considering downgrading the visibility of the China collaboration because of politics. Can work bilaterally
- Those who have international proposals or logistical issues should reach out
- It would help if those who are doing international work would consider contributing and sending in the information about their work

Upcoming Events

- Spring 2023 BSOS Research Resilience Showcase: May 4, 2023 4 - 5:30 pm, Grand Ballroom, Adele H. Stamp Student Union
 - Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and wear GEOG tag
- GEOG active shooter training, April 10 at 10 - 11:30 am, 1158 LeFrak Hall
- High School Banquet in Colony Ballroom STAMP, Student Union: Tuesday, April 18 at 6 to 8 p.m.
 - Faculty and students are encouraged to come
 - Currently 200 rsvp
 - All public high schools in PG and Montgomery County were invited, along with 5 local private schools. Each can send 2 students, their parents, and a teacher. Currently expecting 200+ to attend.
- Department End of the Year Awards, Riggs Alumni Center: May 12 at 1 to 3 p.m.
- Spring 2023 Commencement
 - Campus-wide: Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m.
 - Not mandatory
 - BSOS: Wednesday, May 24 at 3:30 to 5 p.m.

TA Updates from Haber (also available [here](#))

- TA to RA swapping can be done between 4/30 and 6/8
 - Policy is on the GEOG TA canvas pages
 - Also found under website PhD and Grad student tabs
 - By end of April, the assignments for fall TAs will be sent out
 - From end of April and June 8, faculty should let them know if their students will remain a TA or be moved to another position
 - If no replacements are available, the student may have to retain their TA position (unlikely)
 - After July 2, there are no more swaps allowed for the fall semester
- 9 and 12 month appointments - the first day they can work is July 31
- International TA required screening
 - 3 are international TAs
 - Must take an ITA screening exam between August 13-17
 - If fail, UMEI courses are required