

Departmental Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday 3/4/16

9 am – noon

Attendees: Chris Justice, Vivre Bell, Katie Doyle, Ron Luna, Kathleen Stewart, Tatiana Loboda, Eric Kasischke, Rachel Berndtson, Martha Geores, Mengxue Li, Ben DeVries, Elle Lim, Keith Yearwood, George Hurtt, Klaus Hubacek, Jack Ma, Louis Giglio, Ralph Dubayah, Giovanni Baiocchi, Matt Hansen, Kuishuang Feng, Jonathan Resop, Kristen Bergery, Byron Marroquin, Yuhan “Douglas” Rao, Sasha Tyukavina, Naijun Zhou, Brian Barker, Laixiang Sun.

- Introductions of new faculty and staff – Justice
 - New PostDoc from U. of Wageningen, Ben de Vries, is working with Megan Lang and Chengquan Huang
- Recent Developments and Chair’s Update – Justice
 - Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda
 - Recent Emeritus Prof telecon with John Townshend, Sam Goward, Steve Prince and Derek Thompson on codifying the role of Emeritus Professors in the Department
- Renovations – Bell
 - Renovations are on schedule, 1158 will be the new seminar room – it has mostly been cleared out, but there were some items left behind. Please check to make sure you didn’t leave anything behind. The construction will start during spring break and be completed in early May.
- Google Mail conversion scheduled for April 1st - 4th – Bell
 - BSOS is trying migrating during the first week of April, and GEOG will be one of the first departments to make the conversion. Jenny, Fernando and Jack are currently being flipped, so if you have problems ask them regarding what will convert and what won’t. There will be a “freeze” period to copy from the server, so prepare for calendar issues. A list of possible issues will be distributed so you can properly prepare. There are real issues associated with emailing ITAR materials.
- Associate Chair Issues – Dubayah
 - Remind the teaching teams to meet as necessary and look for programmatic holes to fill. If you need additional classes to teach, or have any items that require Ralph’s attention, please talk with him..
- Undergraduate Committee – Loboda
 - Motion to accept the proposed UG course assessments methodology – no vote taken.
 - i. Committee was awaiting feedback from the faculty, but Julie and Naijun were the only ones who responded.

- ii. Issue – Should the instructor be allowed to set the question criteria him/herself? Perhaps the faculty as a whole should develop assessment questions. The teaching teams should suggest possible questions and the faculty should approve (via dept. committee meetings). Note: We must be careful not to telegraph those questions.
 - 1. **ACTION:** Implement pilot program to get a sense of how this process (pre-test/questions development) will work and identify potential issues [LOBODA]
 - iii. Pre-test will assess for two things: Are the students sufficiently prepared to take the course in question? Will the course be beneficial/is it rigorous enough?
- Undergraduate Director Academic Issues – Luna
 - We are currently graduating the largest spring class ever (100 students), which means we need to replace those numbers (roughly half of graduating class)
 - i. **ACTION:** Please push harder to recruit students from other majors [ALL]
 - **ACTION:** Faculty need to post availability notices outside their offices, send out emails regarding office hours, and encourage students to attend the career fair (April 1st) [FACULTY]
 - Dr. Harris, in the school of public policy, is looking to create an undergraduate sustainability program to make it a major (sustainability is one of largest minors on campus). She wants GEOG to be one of the four pillars of this major, which means we could lose students and courses to public policy. If we agree, we need to make sure the merger is useful and worthwhile for GEOG, too.
 - **ACTION:** Contact Public Policy to discuss their proposal and discuss our wants [DUBAYAH]
 - Bergery – Graduation is currently being organized and the RSVP list will be sent out soon
 - i. There will be an early (a.m.) ceremony this year
 - ii. The awards ceremony will be afterwards, around noon, on the patio
 - iii. Hooding 3-6 people this year
 - iv. There is an issue in terms of numbers graduating and capacity of the Chapel
- Graduate Committee – Baiocchi
 - Nothing to report
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- Graduate Director Academic Issues – Sun
 - Nine students have accepted our offer and we are still waiting to hear from two
 - i. All responses are due in (to campus) by April 15th, so we put out an earlier deadline to give the Dept time to assess
 - Jiang Li Scholarship (\$5k) will soon be decided
 - i. This can as needed be split between two candidates
 - Flagship has been awarded to one candidate and we are awaiting her response
- Research Director Issues – Hurtt
 - Work on the Joint Carbon Center continues

- Climate Action Summit is in full swing, managed by Public Policy, will take place on May 5th and 6th – May 4th will be the Action Forum at UMD
 - Additional promotions are currently under review
 - i. 6 professors 2 Faculty Specialist
 - Nominations for the Outstanding Research Professor and Outstanding Faculty Specialist Awards are currently being accepted
 - i. Deadline is April 15th
 - ii. Award decisions will be made by May 1
 - **ACTION:** As a means of boosting post-doc profiles, create a post-doc award [HURTT] – agreed by Chair
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- Research Faculty Committee – Giglio
 - Nothing to report
 - Faculty Specialist Committee – Sohlberg
 - Nothing to report
 - Diversity Task Force – Hansen
 - Geores - We should have a booth/representation at the Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference in Kent, OH, (Sept 21-13, 2016)
 - i. We've recruited students from there in the past
 - ii. A GIS/MPS presentation would be especially useful at conference
 - iii. We have submitted a proposal to Kim Nickerson requesting a cost share w/ BSOS for us to attend and have a booth
 - Regarding faculty diversity efforts, new initiative from the Provost to provide financial assistance for a diversity Associate or Full Professor hire
ACTION: identify potential candidates [FACULTY]
 - Computer Task Force – Hansen
 - Nothing to report
 - MPS Advisory Committee Update – Stewart
 - We attended the ESRI Federal GIS Conference, Feb 24-45
 - i. The number of visitors to our booth doubled from last year, looking to recruit more international students
 - We are trying to offer a new MPS course this summer (MPS GEOINT), currently under development
 - We now have an agreement with Nanjing Normal University (NNU)
 - i. Includes a Professional Masters GIS course and will start in the fall of 2017
 - ii. Financial model will hopefully be solid and income will help us to grow the program
 - GIS Center Update – Stewart
 - We are in the offer phase for a new GIS Assistant Professor

- i. Candidate Grant McKenzie, we are still waiting to hear back from him
 1. Update – McKenzie has accepted our offer (March 11)
- We've a pre-proposal in for new research and innovation to get incoming students on an accelerated pace to experience GIS technology
- Torrens will return from parental at the end of March, but he won't teach again until the Fall

Upcoming Events

- Spring Break March 14 - 18th
- AAG March 29th – April 1st
- Career Day April 1st 9 am to noon
- MD Day – April 26th – 10 - 4
- Departmental Committee Meeting April 29th
- Climate Forum (Stamp Student Union) – May 4th
- Climate Summit (DC) – May 5th -6th
- Geographical Sciences Graduation May 20th at 9:30 am