

## Departmental Committee Meeting Agenda

**Friday 2/11/22**

**9 am – noon**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/92369203994?pwd=a0ttOU5URnhlYlZJaUg0eVRFN2RJUT09>

Attendees: Catherine Miranda, Keith Yearwood, Erin Jacobs, Ralph Dubayah, Andrew Poulson, Kuishuang Feng, Jonathan Resop, Dong Chen, Shunlin Liang, Sergii Skakun, Vivre Bell, Taylor Oshan, Anil Kommareddy, Ruibo Han, Jonathan Hathaway, Dongdong Wang, Giovanni Baiocchi, Jack Ma, Victoria Berry, Shannon Corrigan, Laixiang Sun, Molly Brown, Byron Marroquin, Michael Humber, Matthew Hansen, Chris Justice, Ritvik Sahajpal, Amanda Hoffman Hall, John Keniston, Sinead Farrell, Maria Zubkova, Tatiana Loboda, Laura Duncanson, Blake Munshell, Iman Smith, Joanne Hall, Louis Giglio, Rachel Berndtson, Kathleen Stewart, Yiqun Xie, Jack O'Bannon, Allison Baer, Catherine Nakalembe, Viviana Zalles, Alexandra Tyukavina, Leila De Floriani, Julie Silva, George Hurtt, Tali Schwelling, Michael Adegbenro, Gasmine Myers, Zhen Song, Rejanne Le Bivic, Mehdi Hosseini, Rya Inman, Matthew Tralka

- Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda
- **Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda**
  - New hires
    - i. Andrew Poulson: Faculty Specialist, PI Hansen
    - ii. Talia Schwelling: Faculty Specialist, PI Dubayah
    - iii. Matthew Tralka: Faculty Specialist, PI Skakun
  - Congratulations to Catherine Nakalembe on her award(s)
  - Greg Ball now Vice President for Research; Wayne McIntosh is interim Dean of BSOS
  - Keith Yearwood will be interim Director of Undergraduate Studies
  - COLA
    - i. Feb 18 And March 4 paychecks will include COLA/merit increases and retrospective payback since Jan 2.
  - Merit
    - i. Merit Committees have been formed; plan of organization on intranet describes this process
    - ii. **Due March 11:** Faculty Activity Reports (FAR)
    - iii. **Due March 18:** CV, Merit Review Report, Summary of Achievements (short doc highlighting merit-deserving activities), PRD
    - iv. Recommendations from committees **due April 8**
    - v. Exempt staff included
    - vi. Faculty Specialists do not do FAR, just PRD
    - vii. Still waiting for Maryland state assembly to vote on merit

1. We get 2.5% of merit pool for eligible employees. About 1.75% will trickle down to dept after provost/dean's office take their cut
- DEI
    - i. February is Terrapin Strong Month and **everyone is strongly recommended to do Terrapin Strong training**
    - ii. BSOS Summer Research Initiative (SRI)
      1. Most participants in SRI get stipend from BSOS (covers maybe 6 weeks) to expose students to research. No expectation for you to use research funds to bring in those students. In past, Matt Hansen has funded extra students + continue paying them after SRI ended
      2. **If you know strong students, encourage them to apply. If you have the capacity to mentor students, try it!**
  - Searching for Assistant Professor in Center of Excellence for Remote Sensing
    - i. Matt leading search committee
    - ii. Interviews soon; Blocked three seminar slots for candidates to talk (between AAG and Spring Break): **TT Fac should attend**
    - iii. Hopefully in person (as well as virtual)
  - Also looking for MS Program lecturers
  - Unique PhD candidate-let Tatiana know if you are interested in supporting her (check email for more details)
  - New travel system (Concur) being piloted by BSOS in April
    - **If you are traveling in April and beyond, be aware and reach out to your research coordinator**
    - University approved travel agencies will be changing
  - **Associate Chair Issues – Hurtt**
    - Decline in majors but total seats occupied in courses is relatively stable
      - i. Increase in non-technical classes and decrease in technical class enrollment
    - Gemstone and honors program–looking for opportunities there
    - Strategic plan (came out this week)- goals and objectives, very high level. Administration will roll out initiatives annually.
    - Computer Science considering a CS+X major; Will meet with them to consider cs+geog major. Only in discussion phase
    - Recruiting new majors: we have few freshmen but more upperclassmen. Need to do better outreach to freshmen/families
    - Discuss more at retreat
  - **Undergraduate Director Issues – Hall**
    - Keith will be interim UG director; **include him on emails for Amanda**
    - Iman Smith- Geography Club President, second year student

- Graph of decrease in majors
  - i. 114 compared to 99 in fall
  - ii. ENSP numbers fluctuate, but GEOG majors dropping
  - iii. We are low compared to rest of bsos, though other departments have been seeing decrease (except psych)
- Our GIS minor is on the rise, remote sensing is stable
- We are third highest minor in BSOS
- Get more topical? Advertising strategy- ask other departments what they did
- Course offerings- have lots of technical courses but not as much social/human
  - i. Course sequencing, make room for students to get environmental or geosciences background
  - ii. Discuss more at retreat?
  - iii. Assign undergrads to a faculty mentor for optional mentoring
- Social data science major launched
  - i. BSOS + iSchool think it will be big, we are one of 9 tracks
  - ii. GEOG276 is a core course option, will track enrollment shifts over time
  - iii. **Send Qs to Amanda**
- Global Classrooms
  - i. <https://globalmaryland.umd.edu/content/welcome-global-classrooms>
  - ii. Make your classroom into a more global experience
    - 1. Signature courses - connected with class at international inst.
    - 2. Connections courses - have guest lecturers from intl scientists, that type of thing
  - iii. International GeoCenter could get involved?
- Undergraduate Committee – Farrell
  - Reactivating geog club. Open to career planning event and other activities
    - i. UG lounge- would like to help get that ready. **Donate a recent research poster** for the space if possible- send or drop off in LEF 1149
      - 1. Thinking about making major-only (swipe access)
  - Undergrads and River Road Space
    - i. Undergrads are interested in river road—could we do a tour? tbd
  - Retreat agenda topic proposal
    - i. Would like to discuss research opportunities for UG students, connecting them with grad students (REUs)
  - Learning outcomes assessment: Amanda and Keith will be reaching out to course leaders to track outcomes in their courses for a case study
- Graduate Director Academic Issues – DeFloriani
  - Graduate Student intake for Fall 2022 semester update
    - i. 6 accepted
    - ii. 2 bs/ms accepted
    - iii. 1 deferred from last year
    - iv. Hope to hear back on fellowships soon

- Shannon helping Rachel and Leila- help for grad students applying to fellowships
  - Motion to modify PhD Handbook to clearly state that Proposal and Dissertation defense are allowed in Spring and Fall semester only. Summer defense is allowed only in exceptional circumstances and the Student's advisor will have to petition the Graduate Director and the Chair for the defense to be approved.
    - i. Discussion
      1. Need for a written policy so that we are consistent with students
      2. Clarify what calendars are being used -grad student contracts vs academic calendars vs faculty contracts
        - May 22 is end of faculty contracts, May 31 is end of students
      3. Need for flexibility
      4. Next steps: Change first line of motion to be more specific about what Spring and Fall mean & consider alternatives put forward;  
**modify and vote next time**
  - Retreat agenda topic proposal
    - i. Looking at academic benchmarks/timelines for how we evaluate phd students, changes to phd application
  - Increase # and diversity of graduate pool
  - Need more funding for PhD students (not retreat topic but stay aware)
- Graduate Committee – Silva
    - Desire to update graduate coursework on web page
    - Make Interactive PhD Handbook
    - Have a PAC working group at the retreat? A lot of things that could use clarification in pac guidelines—a component about external funding of fellowships; other ideas to make guidelines more standardized
    - AGU Bridges update
      - i. Means of enhancing our commitment to diversity and inclusion
      - ii. Will be reaching out to people in the department who advise or co-advise students
  - Research Director Issues – Wang
    - Promotions under COVID
    - Proposal coordination meetings
  - Research Faculty Committee – Sahajpal
    - New PTK initiative to increase collaborations
    - General updates from PTK
    - A21 allocation meeting
      - i. Discussion later this spring

- Lecturer Committee – Resop
  - MS GIS and GEOINT Capstone Student Mentors
    - i. **Looking for volunteers to be mentors.** Meet once a month with students for encouragement and guidance. Contact Jonathan or Rejanne
- Graduate Student Organization – Baer
  - Events
  - Mentoring program
  - Elections for next academic year
- Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Committee - Hansen
  - Past SRI participation experience
  - General updates
  - **Next meeting 3/4**, URGE group will join us
- Computer Task Force – Kommareddy
  - “Defend the Shell” requirement- **complete this training**
- CGIS – Ma
  - MPS programs updates
  - General updates
- Lots of events/activities planned for this year
- MS- both programs searching for lecturer (geoint part time, gis full time)
- International Center for Geospatial Science Task Force – Justice
- Retreat – Loboda
  - Book Wednesday April 27 @ 9 am – Friday 29 @1 pm
  - We will be meeting at RR
  - Retreat topics will be finalized within the next few weeks and Committee Chairs and Directors will be asked to help plan out retreat discussions.
- Intranet updates - Miranda
  - We will be updating intranet; If you have a page on the intranet, we will contact you to work on updates
- Any Other Business
  - CompOps have been approved by university; will be doing decadal budget overview at retreat
  - IT strategic planning will be at retreat
  - Mask policy still in place; no changes. Not required to report non-compliance

Retreat topics: IT, Grad students, UG students/involvement in research

### **Upcoming Events**

- Departmental Seminar Series Thursdays at 3:45 via Zoom
- AAG February 25<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Departmental Committee Meeting – March 18<sup>th</sup> 9 am
- March 21<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- Department Retreat April 27<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Commencement May 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 1:30 pm

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