

Departmental Committee Meeting Agenda
Friday 9/23/22
9 am – noon

Zoom link: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/93850406946?pwd=dUR0cUtuSkFIVUNnc1BvTmpxOWRzUT09>

Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda

- Accepted

Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda

- The Dean & Provost are supportive of our department and recognize our research strength. They also support our goal for reunification.
 - Most promising building candidate: one of two new buildings next to the hotel (across from route 1, adjacent to campus).
 - They are working with UMD DOTS to see if we can set up a shuttle between RR and campus.
 - The 'night ride' program that Eric Gao pushed for is now live: you can request shuttle service from 5:30pm-7:30am from RRD to other designated areas. You can do this via app or phone call.
- Dean and provost would like a tour of RRD
 - Research celebration with interactive research showcases. This could include undergrads, high school students and teachers. Aiming for late October, early Nov. **If you have ideas, reach out to Tatiana**
- Grand Challenges update
 - Our institutional proposal with ESSIC, AOSC, Geology and ENST: School of Environment and Climate Sciences, has been advanced to the next stage
 - Still working out the details. Keep in mind that the grant is small.
 - This will not be a new academic unit (like the ischool), but it will bring together the various research and educational components of the involved units.
 - We also submitted team and individual proposals, all of which BSOS is moving forward
- Challenges with the NNU component of MS program
 - Due to the relationship with China, this program is continually flagged as risky and the president must approve even minor changes.
 - The NNU leadership senses this uncertainty. Enrollment significantly down from March.
 - We need to decide if it's worthwhile to continue this partnership. University will pass down a decision on allowing new cohorts (probably next semester). We will push them to make a decision for a 5 year time window. Either we continue or terminate
- Departmental Retreat Oct. 12-14 at Airlie (Warrenton, VA)
 - Arrive ~4 on Wednesday (dinner will be at 6), full day Thursday, leave after lunch Friday
 - Topics: Future of dept. IT, improvements to the grad program, and a third topic TBD. Suggestion: work on a strategic 5 year plan for dept.

- If you teach, find substitutes, TAs, guest lecturer etc. to take your place. No teaching from retreat
- UMD issuing new workload guidance. This is umbrella guidance, and each college builds their own guidance under that, and each unit under that.
 - We have an implicit workload policy that needs to be written. University guidelines: 50/40/10 teaching, research, service for TTF. Won't necessarily look like that for each dept. More info to come
 - Deadline for written guidelines is December but will likely be moved to Spring
 - Might need a task force.
- Graduation
 - Only Spring Commencements moving forward
 - BSOS is consolidating into two events on May 24th and 3pm and 7pm
 - We can put more effort into receptions
- Uptake in 'distasteful and threatening' messages to faculty and staff
 - If you receive one, take it seriously and report it to UMPD or Laura Ours
- Jane Goodall coming to campus in October
- **Please respond to emails from admin staff;** costly in time

Associate Chair Issues – Hurtt

- Climate meeting with President + State leadership from MD department of environment + campus reps
 - State of MD interested in partnering with UMD on climate & climate mitigation. We already have connection with forest carbon monitoring system
 - Climate target to be net zero by 2045. Need help with monitoring and meeting this target
 - More meetings planned to dive deeper
 - Could there be an opportunity to support undergrad participation in this partnership?
- Working on budget
- Recruiting
 - HS Banquet over the summer; continuing with that cohort for GIS day and planning for next year's event. Includes building a relationship with the teachers, which could involve professional development events
- Addressing decline in UG majors
 - New concentrations, HS banquet, partnership with athletics dept.
 - Fall shows an uptick in majors, hopefully this will continue!
 - We should invite junior and senior UGs to seminar (email geog-undergrad)

Graduate Director Academic Issues – DeFloriani

- 16 incoming PhD students, 68 overall
- All PhD students have four years of funding. Included in acceptance letter and policies.
- [GA renewal](#) notification deadline (11/1)
 - GRAs:

- **Nov. 1:** PI informs student and Graduate Director about intent to renew or terminate RA position for next academic year. CC student's advisor and research coordinator
 - **Dec. 1:** If not renewing GRA and you want them to be funded as TA, email associate chair
- TAs:
 - **Nov. 1:** Associate chair will inform student and Graduate Director about the intent to renew or terminate their TA position for following academic year.
 - **Dec. 1:** If you won't fund student as TA next year and want to fund them as GRA instead, email Associate Chair
- More discussion for retreat
- Spring semester [TA/RA swap](#) deadline (**11/1**)
 - More details on TA/RA swap deadline, petitions to rejoin GA pool, petitions for 5th year of funding [here](#).
- Program Outreach—flyers, faculty efforts to reach students, etc.

Graduate Committee – Feng

- Graduate Learning Outcome Assessment for Grad School
 - Work in progress
- Statements of Expectations for RAs
- Part time students
 - Students who stay longer to finish dissertation need three credits to maintain student status, creating a financial burden
 - The grad school only requires one credit—could we change our requirements to match this.
 - Need to make sure a change would still work for international students
 - Some confusion—plan to create a **proposal that we can vote on the next meeting**
- Graduate student lounge in LeFrak: 1115
 - We would like to integrate our RRD and LF students
 - They are already beginning to use it
 - Timeline tbd
- No TA 'office' in LeFrak, but there is space in 1106. Some are using hot offices, which creates conflicts for professors who have reserved those spaces.
 - For swipe access to 1106, reach out to Sandra

Undergraduate Director Issues – Yearwood

- Decrease in majors 2018-2021, possibly due to covid
- Fall 2022 shows possible increase
 - Breakdown: 20 GEOG, 39 GIS, Only 2 for CEOS
- Minors
 - GIS minors much greater than RS.
- Plan: target first-year undergrads

- Targeting Freshman Connection courses—many of these students are undecided and this is a good opportunity to market GEOG
- Also targeting bigger 200 level classes—advisors would like to speak in these courses to talk about our dept.
- Working with Athletic Director to target athletes
- UG Lounge, 1150
 - Work in progress
- Learning outcomes
 - Incorporating discipline specific DEI outcomes into all courses, more info to come
- Winter teaching
 - Online courses better for enrollment because students are home
 - Makes money for us
- Counseling services
 - Offer help for students AND faculty—great resource for everyone
- Wednesday Oct. 26th 4:30-6pm Career Fair
 - Virtual this fall; TBD for spring
 - Many employers are holding their own fairs; they might be open to coming to an in-person event if we have one

Undergraduate Committee – Baiocchi

- **Friday Oct. 7th:** UG website meeting to review and redesign
- Recommend that people review syllabi to make sure they are engaging and include applications that appeal to students from different backgrounds. Will be creating guidelines for this
 - Remember to put syllabus on Testudo

Research Director Issues – Wang

- Res Faculty and Fac Specialist Promotion Season: Deadlines coming up
- Consider participating in review committee if you are invited
- Research Faculty: what would successful mentoring look like?
 - Could include mentoring from TTF to PTK, for research faculty interested in becoming TTF one day

Research Faculty Committee – Sahajpal

- Updates from PTK meeting:
- Faculty Success Report
 - Provided feedback to Sharon Goodall on outputs that can be obtained from Faculty Success Report. Developed template that will summarize faculty output, making it easier to do merit reviews
- Mike and Ritvik conducted survey on PTK computer and data storage needs—6 responses so far; indicate heavy usage of cluster; will discuss in more detail before retreat
- Committee to update merit review guidelines; will work on over next few months

- Sent out PTK research roster document containing info on which PTK faculty have extra resources and research needs they would like to be fulfilled by other PTK faculty in dept. who aren't at 100% FTE
- Can we allow merit-based and equity-based salary adjustment options outside promotion and merit?
 - No: salary adjustments only happen during promotion or merit events
 - There is a third but not ideal option: if you get a job offer elsewhere, we can choose to match the offer (or not)

Faculty Specialist Committee –Munshell

- Question: Are there updated guidelines on telework?
 - No real changes
 - Discuss with your PIs what works best

IT Task Force – Hansen

- Three new job ads out

CGIS – Stewart/Ma

- MS program
 - Ongoing MOU with Esri bringing in new opportunities for MS students AND BS/MS and PhD students. Perks including guest lectures, workshops, conference passes, etc.
 - Both programs doing well
 - GEOINT students doing NGA tour/career chat
 - Trying to take advantage of proximity to DC area; something we can market
- USDA proposal
 - Put in proposal to do training program where MSGIS lecturers train USDA employees interested in emergency response, using GIS web mapping
 - Waiting to hear back in November

International GeoCenter Task Force – Justice

- Update
 - Grad Travel Opportunity (email sent out)
 - Website will be up in next few weeks
 - Contact Varada if you have international programs to showcase. We will be reaching out to people

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) – Gao

- Interested in holding events; encourage students and faculty participation
- Apple picking, halloween party, christmas party to come...
- Reach out to Eric if you have ideas

Upcoming Events

- Departmental Retreat: Oct. 12th-14th, [Airlie Conference Center](#)
- GEOG Pedagogy Discussion: Friday Oct. 21st, 11:30am
- GEOG Career Fair: Wednesday, Oct. 26th 4:30-6pm
- River Road Research Tour for Dean and Provost: Date TBD