

Departmental Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday 5/7/21

9 am – noon

Attendance:

Present: Chris Justice, Sergii Skakun, Louis Giglio, Giovanni Baiocchi, Anil Kommareddy, Vivre Bell, Naijun Zhou, Michelle Herbold, Leila De Floiani, Dongdong Wang, Matt Hansen, Hannah Kerner, Dong Chen, Shunlin, Erin Jacobs, Rachel Brendtson, Mehdi Hoseini, Tatiana Loboda, Laixiang Sun, Jack O' Bannon, Svetlana Turubanova, Vicky Berry, Ralph Dubayah, Julie Silva, George Hurtt, Amanda Hall, Laura Duncanson, Kuishuang Feng, Amber Liang, Yiqun Xie, Kathleen Stewart, Sahnnon Corrigan, Meredith Gore, Rubio Han, Maria Zubkova, Bryon Marroquin, Micheal Humber, Meghavi Prashnani, Taylor Oshan, Ipsita Kumar, Jonathan Resop, Allison Baer, Alexandra Tyukavina

New Hire Introductions:

Valeria Morales – new faculty specialist with George Hurtt, BS and MS alumnus
Ivan Zvonkov – working with Catherine Nakalembe with HARVEST, previously at FinTech

Jinyi Ma – Faculty Specialist with Kathleen Stewart, MS GIS alumnus, team Facebook project

Mathieu Reverdy – Assistant Research Faculty with Armston, GEDI

Jose Luis Nadal – Post Doc with Jean Claude

Atticus Stovall – works at Goddard w. Laura Duncanson

- Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda

Last Meeting Minutes Approved

No corrections

- **Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Justice**
 - We are requesting that the new hire is moving through despite the hiring freeze
 - New university Provost – Jennifer Rice King
 - New department chair (in process) → transition will begin in the next couple of weeks – start date July 1, 2021
 - Eight Research Faculty promotions have been accepted and have gone through, 1 more promotion is pending
 - i. 2 ATP promotions are in progress
 - ii. Campus has been very slow through this process as of late
 - Leila De Floriani, UMIACS Joint Appointment renewed
 - External Review response has been submitted to the Dean
 - Chair's Council
 - i. Two new Af Am hires

- ii. Chairs are encouraged to consider a cluster hire in BSOS
 - iii. GEOG should begin looking for potential candidates
- George Hurtt and Sinead Farrell have been invited to lead and serve on the Maryland Forward – Discovery, Creativity and Innovation Subcommittee on campus
- Hannah Kerner GEOG POC for the ESSIC UMD joint workshop on machine learning
- River Road move will commence shortly → needs to be systematic
 - i. Try and maintain some LeFrak space (mentioned in the external review notes)
 - ii. Currently Phase 1 of the move has commenced
 - iii. There are boxes in the office and xerox room
 - 1. Green boxes → boxes moving to River Road
 - 2. Blue boxes → boxes moving within/to LeFrak
- Commencement and award ceremony coming soon
- BSOS is collecting opinions on campus reopening here: <https://bsosfeedback.umd.edu/>
- **Covid Update – Bell**
 - COVID procedure on campus
 - i. Fully vaccinated members of campus do not need to wear masks outdoors
 - ii. Second Dose should be taken by July 6th
 - iii. No June and July tested is required for those vaccinated
 - iv. Campus is at 75% capacity for research facilities
 - 1. No issues with people coming into labs as they please once selected
- **Associate Chair Issues – Loboda**
 - All is going smoothly
 - Preparation for the Fall has begun
 - i. TA allocations underway → 2-5 TA vacancies currently and these will be addressed in the coming days/weeks
 - New updates to the GEOG concentrations/minors pitched by Amanda Hall
- **Undergraduate Director Issues – Hall**
 - No one on the Senate committee had question on the newly proposed GEOG concentration
 - New Social Data Science major in BSOS → a website has been set-up
 - i. GEOG (Taylor POC) is a cognate of the program
 - Commencement
 - i. GEOG ceremony will be pre-recorded and appropriate people have been reached out to create recordings of their speeches
 - ii. PhD graduates will have a special ceremony at the GEOG award ceremony (Wednesday from 1-3pm EST) via Zoom
 - Undergraduate Committee
 - i. Learning Outcomes from all GEOG courses are being linked to the program learning outcomes

- ii. Several summer classes are being offered
- End of semester concerns per usual
 - i. If any issues arise, reach out to Amanda and Tatiana

- **Graduate Director Academic Issues – Sun**

- Fall 2021 Orientation and PACS will be online.
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1n1iYP6vzc359umpGb8WyFBSorhotZ7sM?usp=sharing>
 - i. GEOG orientation will be online, mimicking the campus orientation template
 - ii. Several information and instructions documents in the google drive linked above
 - iii. See PAC information
 - 1. In person option is also permissible
 - iv. The agenda for the orientation is in the folder → please check for availability
- Motion: Vote in minor revision to PhD student handbook (presentation time by candidate is c. 30 minutes, updating on website links)
 - i. This is a flexible guideline
 - ii. No opposition → no voting needed
- New cohort of 17 PhD students → largest cohort in several years
- Guidance on vaccination for new international students will be provided by campus shortly

- **Graduate Committee – Wang**

- Updates on mentoring plan → after the discussion from the retreat there were several ideas, and a draft will be written and proposed to BSOS at the upcoming meeting
- The 2021 seminar series → the virtual format has worked very well
 - i. Allow adjunct faculty to give presentations
 - ii. More diverse speakers → mechanism (??)
 - 1. DEI topics in GEOG and the professional world
 - 2. Keep track of speakers
 - iii. It was decided last year that the seminar series will be organized by the Graduate committee chair
 - 1. The chair holds the position for a 2-year term
 - iv. Campus wide seminar calendar by GSG
- Action item: Dongdong to work with Tatiana to develop the Fall Seminar plan

- **Research Director Issues – Hurtt**

- Working on promotions and awards
- Strategic planning on Campus with regards to the university vision for Maryland Forward (6 sub committees)
- ESSIC → re-establish a functional relationship between them and GEOG in order to better support Department faculty and for Goddard support in general. In general strengthen relationships with NASA GSFC and NOAA NESDIS

- **Research Faculty Committee – Sahajpal**
 - BSOS PTK Advisory Group Meeting update
 - This is a newly created group to discuss issue of relevance to PTK faculty
 - Creating a mentoring planning → in discussion
- **Lecturer Committee – Resop**
 - First Pedagogy discussion was last February, and a second meeting is expected in the near future
 - i. Pass suggested discussion topics to Jonathan
 - Capstone lighting talks will be next Thursday (email has circulated)
 - Finding new avenues to connect MS program students with research opportunities in the Department → discussion with Ritvik
 - i. Suggestion to create an event to introduce student to research projects
- **Faculty Specialist Committee – Corrigan**
 - PRD's are due soon
 - This process is something that needs to be updated and improved in order to get the most out of it
- **Graduate Student Organization – Amber Liang**
 - Nominations for the next GSO president have closed, and results will come out next Friday
 - Holiday celebration gifts are being given to students
 - Graduate student mentoring
 - i. Graduate peer mentoring program
 - ii. This will be advertised at the new student orientation
 - iii. Encourage students to participate
 - River Road move and in-person transition
 - i. The advisor can determine physical presences and expectations regarding post-covid procedure → flexibility is necessary and advised
 - Graduate Student Townhall coming soon
- **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Anti-Racism Committee – Hansen**
 - Term of Reference for the Committee submitted for discussion
 - The TOR as drafted was presented as a baseline document
 - Discussion resulted in edits to two areas
 - i. (1) open committee meetings – all committee meetings are open
 - ii. (2) “aspiring” changed to goals
 - Tracking and collecting DEI metrics, among other ideas and suggestions to be pursued including
 - i. Cross-committee synergies
 - ii. How to address grievances

Motion: To accept the attached terms of reference.

YES – 37
NO – 0
Abstain – 0

- Plan to strengthen the DEI presence on the Web Site
 - i. Description of the DEI Committee on the web site to have a greater level of explanation than in the Plan of Organization TOR e.g. meetings open to all.
- Recruitment efforts from HBCUs and other institutes planned to recruit diverse and underrepresented applicants → potential PhD pipeline

URGE Pod Update – Baer

- URGE Spring 2021 update
- See slide presentation and URGE website
- Deliverables from the URGE pod (to be discussed). These should be considered as first drafts: <https://urgescience.org/pods/university-of-maryland-department-of-geographical-sciences/>
- **Computer Task Force – Kommareddy**
 - Cloud computing and IT policies on campus were discussed at the last Computer Task Force meeting
 - Windows 10 Upgrades
 - Secureshare.umd.edu
 - i. In order to share sensitive information (such as SSN, etc.)
 - ii. UMD box is also a secure model for sharing sensitive information
 - iii. Easy option with NASA → not blocked to NASA
- **CGIS – Stewart**
 - 2 seminar series are continuing
 - i. Taylor and Leila
 - Mapping of Science committee workshop coming up on May 21st on Environmental Justice
 - Geospatial webinar series next week (May 10th)
 - Stackable masters for the MS programs and collaboration with other programs
- **International Center for Geospatial Science Task Force – Dubayah**
 - Moving forward and some momentum
 - Commercial and international interest
 - The idea will be presented to the VPR post-graduation
 - ToR and mission/goals statements are being finalized
- **Any Other Business**
 - The website is being populated which is very good
 - i. Website metric available if needed

- PhD application due for December 17th, 2022 → after AGU
- BSOS is re-instating the College Council → Leila will be the GEOG rep.
- UMD is going carbon neutral by 2025
- Guildford Woods

Meeting Adjourned 11:55pm

Upcoming Events

- Departmental Seminar Series Thursdays at 3:45 via Zoom
- Commencement May 21st Capital One Field at Maryland Stadium