

Departmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday 9/24/2021

Held as a Zoom meeting.

Attendance attached at end of minutes

- Introductions of new faculty and staff – Loboda

| Name | Start Date | Title | PI |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Antoine Baggett | 9/13/2021 | Faculty Specialist | Matt Hansen |
| Kepler, Kimberly | 8/23/2021 | Research Coordinator | Vivre Bell |
| Yao Li | 8/23/2021 | Post-Doctoral Associate | Kathleen Stewart |
| Blake Munshell | 8/1/2021 | Faculty Specialist | Inbal Becker-Reshef |
| Rajeshwar Natarajanshanmugasingaram | 8/1/2021 | Faculty Specialist | Prasad Bandaru |
| Andres Santamaria Artigas | 6/6/2021 | Post-Doctoral Associate | Jean-Claude Roger |

- Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda - Done
- Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda

1. University:

- a. UMD COVID state 98.1 % fully vaccinated – we are fully compliant, masks
 - i. We have ordered 120 KN95 masks from campus and will make them available for faculty/staff/GAs.
- b. UMD strategic Planning updates:
 - i. UMD is undergoing strategic planning exercise:
 - 1. We are well represented (George steering committee, Sinead & George – discovery, creativity and Innovation subcommittee, Kathleen – Strategic Partnerships subcommittee)
- c. Conflict Resolution on Campus:
 - i. There's a mental health pandemic
 - ii. Conflict is inevitable – UMD has a lot of resources to address it- there is a very long list of resources which we have put on the intranet

2. BSOS:

- a. PIs and CO-Is CITI Program Conflict of Interest Training + signing UMD COI policy is a new requirement for proposal submission – see email from Jean McGloin (forwarded by me) 9/23/2021; clarification from Jean “only PIs and Co-PI employed at UMD, in cases where BSOS is the lead unit”

3. Department:

- a. We are rapidly growing our PTK faculty → introducing those who started (there will be more joining at the next meeting);
- b. Faculty and Staff Convocation – Chris was officially recognized as DUP – very exciting
- c. Planning for the last TTF hire (Matt chair, Chris, Sinead, Ralph on the search committee)
- d. FAMILE hiring structure and thoughts on how to capitalize
- e. River Road updates:
 - i. River Road HVAC 8 am to 6 pm weekdays, and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday. The building should remain comfortable for a few hours after the HVAC is shut down. Hartwick, and other leased facilities, are on a similar schedule, as are campus buildings. If you have problems with HVAC in your office, let Vivre know.
 - ii. Nite ride to River Road is being reviewed and expected to be approved.
 - iii. Escorts by uniformed Police officers or Student Police Aides are available 24 hours any day by calling (301) 405-3555.
 - iv. Increase in regular shuttle routes is not currently an option and DOT is facing large budget cuts; but Metro bus routes F6 and R12 go down River Road to College Park metro - checking on the schedule
 - v. Keycards for RR will be made available for those to request at \$10 per card – we are developing the process.
- f. LeFrak updates:
 - i. The move is continuing – downstairs offices are set, upstairs offices are in flux
 - ii. We have offices for the Grad director (1st floor) and Assoc Chair (2nd floor) – if students or faculty need to meet with these administrators in person, they should schedule an appointment and we can meet them in either LeFrak or River Road
 - iii. Hot desks for advising and meeting with the students are on the 1st floor – if insufficient, we will add more (probably on the second floor)
 - iv. Parking after hours in A lot is a possibility.
- g. Departmental Seminar – where are the faculty? It is important that faculty attend.

ACTION ITEM: Update seminar series webpage to include all scheduled talks – **Berndtson - DONE**

4. Strategic Developments:

- a. Machine Learning workshop & outcomes (Hannah Kerner)
- Associate Chair Issues – Hurtt

Semester is going well. If students report to you that they have been exposed to Covid, they should call the 405-HEAL hotline. Be flexible. Many professors are recording lectures, holding zoom meeting office hours and sharing notes. Please discuss with Amanda Hall or Rachel Berndtson if you need additional flexibility.

Rachel Berndtson is working on TA assignments and course planning for next academic year.

Campus is undergoing strategic planning. There will be five stages and we are currently at stage 3. Many ideas have Geographical Sciences playing a major role (i.e. interdisciplinary focus on environment and social sciences). Community feedback is now being solicited on various topics/questions, and if you would like to provide your thoughts (please do!), you can submit those here: <https://umd.edu/university-strategic-planning/community-feedback-strategic-planning>.

- Undergraduate Director Issues – Hall

The question was raised if an instructor can intervene if a student attends class while showing symptoms and the other students are worried. Kathleen Russell is a good resource for questions like these. One suggestion was to have the class go online/virtual for two weeks if issues develop and then back to in-person after the two weeks. At the Provost level, we are supposed to be live and teaching in person. There is no policy or guidance on addressing sick students. It is recommended that instructors zoom while teaching in person as that will make it easier for students to stay home if they are not feeling well.

Students can officially enroll in our Computation Earth Observation Major. We have bus ads on 30 UMD shuttle buses announcing the major.

We are officially at 100 majors. This is significantly down from when we were at over 200 majors. Minors are down to 65, but that is not as much of a flux as the majors.

The Social Data Science Major has been approved and students can enroll starting Fall 2022. BSOS thinks this major will be huge and GEOG is well positioned with GEOG276 and GEOG376 both part of the core sequences all majors must take.

- Undergraduate Committee – Farrell

Committee is focusing on advertising and outreach. 30 second videos are being developed for each of the three concentrations. We want to improve our science communication and have one or two students help with our social media posting.

Reminder that the VPAC and PCC process to start a new course or change the title/course description for an existing one takes 4-6 months. Byron Marroquin is writing up the steps of the process and will post on the intranet.

Committee is working on a curriculum map – maps concentration lower->upper classes. Each teaching team will get the template curriculum map in the Spring semester and will need to develop it to submit to BSOS.

Geography Undergrad Club – has a new president & plans to host in-person meeting.

- Graduate Director Academic Issues – De Floriani

Meeting scheduled for 10/8 to listen to Grad Students.

Rachel Berndtson is presenting to a PHD program recruitment fair today.

Strategic planning needs for TAs are being developed for next academic year based on class size, who is graduating, transferring to RA, renewed or dismissed based on number of years of funding and PhD performance and evaluations.

Deadline for requesting a TA/RA swap are coming up. Reminder 10/8 is the deadline to let Rachel Berndtson know you will not be a TA for the Spring Semester so that the teaching teams find a replacement. Between 10/8-11/1, the PI will be responsible for finding a suitable TA replacement or the TA will not be able to change to a RA for the Spring Semester.

Statement of mutual expectations for GA and supervisor need to be done. The GA agreement letters for returning GAs are being developed.

- Graduate Committee – Silva

The Graduate Committee has identified three main areas of effort for the semester:

Data Compilation/data collection for the AGU bridge app review. AGU bridge app review asking for 5 years of data; why students left program, procedure evaluation and organized student info. Describe individual development plans on grad students vs. buzz words like diversity, equity and such on tip sheet.

Graduate Handbook needs to be reviewed and updated.

Facilitate communications to students (teaching in 601), update website and work with the other committees.

- Research Director Issues – Wang

Held the first meeting on large scale biodiversity initiatives on 9/21.

- Research Faculty Committee – Sahajpal

Research Faculty would like there to be more transparency on how A21 funds are allocated.

ACTION ITEM – Outline process for A21 funds allocation – **Bell and Loboda**

Committee is working on an internal document referencing research faculty skillsets to make it easier to match up research faculty with funding opportunities.

It was noted that getting between LeFrak Hall and River Road was difficult due to the lack of a direct shuttle bus route.

Promotion deadlines are coming up and reminders will be emailed to PTK faculty.

- Lecturer Committee – Resop.

Reminder about the upcoming Pedagogy Discussion – Everyone is encouraged to attend.

- Faculty Specialist Committee – Keniston

Committee has not met yet.

- Graduate Student Organization – Baer

Graduate students are still collecting feedback on the possibility of changing grad appointments from 9.5 month to 12 month.

Graduate students assigned research lab space in LeFrak would still like to have access to River Road.

There had been issues with students from River Road using the workspaces assigned to students in 1124. Clarification about available space for all graduate students in 1104 has been circulated and should resolve the issue.

GSO leadership organization roles – nomination period is closed and elections are next week – They do not have all positions filled – Faculty are asked to encourage their graduate students at the appropriate stage of their PhD work to engage with the GSO, please reach out to Alison.

Alison is planning a campus tour and anyone new to the department is welcome to attend.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee - Hansen

Committee will have its first meeting next Friday, 10/1.

- Computer Task Force – Kommareddy

Campus is now restricting google drive storage space for individuals. If you need more than 100GB, please contact Anil Kommareddy. Please avoid storage of personal information on campus sites.

It is important to realize that email accounts and cluster logins are disabled one month after someone leaves the university.

Please send emails to geoghelp@umd.edu and not to individual IT staff members.

Do not move hardware yourself. Only IT staff should be moving and tracking the inventory of equipment.

There is a shortage of hardware and costs have increased so purchases are taking longer (3-4 months) and costing more.

The computer task force has been poorly attended in the past. The task force is where issues and software updates are discussed.

- GIS Center Update – Stewart

The Center Faculty are seeing a huge drop in the number of inquiries from potential PhD students from China.

ACTION ITEM: Reach out to Wuhan and BNU to let them know we are open for business and their graduates are welcome to come to UMD for their PHDs – **Center Faculty**

The enrollment in the MSGIS and MSGEOINT has been good. There is now a new Certificate in Remote Sensing which we hope will attract additional students.

We have signed a MOU with ESRI's local office which will have hands-on workshops and brown bag talks lead by ESRI that department members can attend.

- International Center for Geospatial Science Task Force – Justice

The first meeting of the taskforce will be 10/8. A proposal for \$200K for three years to help start up the center is being developed. It will fund a project manager position and provide international travel opportunities to our graduate students.

- Spring 2022 Retreat Planning – Loboda

We have permission from BSOS to hold an in-person retreat for Spring 2022.

ACTION ITEM: Identify priority strategic areas for retreat before the end of the Fall Semester – **Standing Committee Chairs**

ACTION ITEM: Identify date and location for the retreat. Retreat will be two nights, two and a half days – usually Wednesday – Friday – **Bell and Loboda**

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING 09/24/21 - Attendance

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Vivre Bell (Host) | Kathleen Stewart |
| Kimberly Kepler | Kristen Bergery |
| Tatian Loboda (Co-Host) | Kuishuang Feng |
| Julie Silva | Laixiang Sun |
| Sinead Farrell | Laura Innice Duncanson |
| Alexandra Tyukavina | Leila De Floriani |
| Allison Baer | Leonid Shumilo |
| Amanda Hoffman-Hall | Louis Giglio |
| Andres Eduardo Santamaria | Maria Zubkova |
| Anil Reddy Kommareddy | Matt Hansen |
| Byron Marroguin | Meredith Gore |
| Chris Justice | Michael Adegbenro |
| Dong (Tony) Chen | Petr Potapov |
| Dongdong Wang | Rachel Berndtson |
| Elle Lim | Ralph Dubayah |
| Erin Jacobs | Ritvik Sahajpal |
| Fernando Ramirez | Rubio Han |
| George Hurtt | Sergii Skakun |
| Giovanni Baiocchi | Shunlin Liang |
| Hannah Kerner | Svetlana Turubanova |
| Ipsita Kumar | Taylor Oshan |
| Jianguo Ma | Vicky Berry |
| Joanne Hall | Xiangjie Chen |
| John Keniston | Yiqun Xie |
| Jonathan Resop | |
| Kaihui Song | |