

Departmental Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday 4/29/22

9 am – noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://umd.zoom.us/j/99459900818>

Miranda, Bell, Marroquin, Loboda, Hurtt, Pickens, Pascual, Tyukavina, Baer, Hoffman Hall, Amy, Kommareddy, Justice, Wang, Dubayah, Duncan, Jacobs, Giglio, Baiocchi, Ma, O'Bannon, J. Hall, Keniston, Resop, Silva, Stewart, Yearwood, Kepler, Bergery, Feng, K. Lee, Sun, Duncanson, De Floriani, Zubkova, Hansen, Humber, Berndtson, Le Bivic, Sahajpal, Han, Skakun, Corrigan, Liang, Farrell, Turubanova, Oshan, Berry, Zalles, Xie, Z. Song

- Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda
 - Accepted
- **Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda**
- New hires:
 - Adrian Pascual, Assistant Research Professor, PI Dubayah
 - Yolande Munzimi, Post-Doctoral Associate, PI Hansen
 - Sheila Baber, Faculty Specialist, PI Becker-Reshef
 - Fernanda Argueta, Faculty Specialist, PI Humber
 - Kyungtae Lee, Post-Doctoral Associate, PI Hofton
- Promotions
 - Curtis Jones- Assoc Research Prof
 - Michael Humber- Assoc Res Prof
 - David Minor- Senior Facspec
 - Kara Mobely- Senior Facspec
 - Maria Zubkova- Asst Res Prof
- Provost and President released strategic plan and they will start releasing new initiatives every year for the next five years
 - This year: 2 big opportunities under the grand challenges component: one about teaching, one about research
 - i. Research: three tier approach: Creation of new centers, institutes, schools (soft funding up to 500k/year over 3 years, then units are expected to be self-sustaining). Comes with expectation of 1:1 funding. BSOS will not support more than 2 proposals. School of Geosciences would fit in here. Next tier: project proposals (team projects, cross campus collaborative teams), 250k per year support (has to be matching). Third tier: Individual PI proposals (25k per year for three years), requires matching funds. Deadlines: June 30th for first tier; September 30 for 2nd and 3rd tier.
 - ii. Teaching: propose to fund two sets of projects
 - 1. Individual course update proposal

- Redesign of individual courses, up to 20k and does not require matching. Could fund grad student over summer to design a course
- 2. Program proposal
 - Fund about 10 at campus level; designed to support program or sequence of courses (redesigned or created from scratch)
 - Requires 1:1 matching
 - BSOS will put forward 2 max
- APT: working to support faculty adversely impacted by pandemic:
 - Asst professors who would like to request tenure delay can do this; easy; statement of coded impact on discipline. Department will write statement for all APT cases going forward; Tatiana will work on this and circulate it before the fall
- Merit
 - Process is designed to recognize peoples' achievements, not to cause distress
 - Provost and Dean issued a directive that assumes everyone got merit (3.5) and (3) cola
 - Merit primarily supposed to be used to address salary imbalances; secondary goal is to reward high performing individuals
 - Suggest fall merit procedure review committee to adjust merit review procedures as needed
 - Letters with exact salary adjustments in June (after provost approves merit) which will kick in July 1st.
- Dr. Xiaopeng Song will join as Asst Professor in Fall in Center for Remote Sensing
- **Associate Chair Issues – Hurtt**
 - Briefing on High School Awards Banquet
 - i. Initiative to increase # freshman majors and educate a potential audience on who we are and what we do
 - ii. Inviting PG county schools to select two geog award winners to attend our banquet
 - iii. Baiocchi: way to integrate this with our DEI initiatives?
 - Team Teaching Discussion
 - i. Co-teaching defined as two or more instructors for a course; we don't have any of these right now
 - ii. Need clear rationale for doing it and when it's done, should be integrated partnership between two instructors (rather than divide and conquer)
 - iii. Cases where co-teaching could be beneficial
 - 1. Developing a new course
 - 2. Onboarding a new instructor to a course
 - iv. Proposal: Develop a petition process: if you want to co-teach, write a petition request to assoc chair explaining why and address

pedagogical and financial issues. Reviewed by assoc chair and asst director of academic programs, undergrad director → make decision

- v. Discussion to be continued by teaching team in fall and possibly at departmental retreat

- **Undergraduate Director Issues – Hall/Yearwood**

- Fall number forecast
 - i. Look to be stable from last fall; hopefully leveling off
 - ii. Minors: increased interest in GIS minor
 - 1. How did they hear about the minor: website, friends, instructors; importance of word of mouth, focus on recruiting in gen-ed courses; interest in geopolitics
- Diversity gen eds will submit new learning outcomes but also good time to create new gen eds to go with those requirements (check March 1st announcement about diversity categories)
- Learning outcomes assessment
 - i. Our report was exemplary
 - ii. For this year's round: Amanda might reach out before end of semester on learning outcome assessments
- Summer winter course strategy
 - i. Enrollment down
 - ii. Tried summer-only exciting courses but couldn't get them off the ground; still low enrollment. In summer students pay per credit (vs flat rate through fall spring), which may deter students from taking summer electives
 - iii. Offered gen-eds-brought in large proportion of winter revenue
 - 1. People who take it in fall tell ppl to take it in winter (word of mouth)
 - iv. Technical courses highly correlated with minor and major numbers. Pushing GIS 4+1 (4 summer and one in fall to get minor), which seems to be working
 - v. TA announcements for summer courses will come out as they hit enrollment numbers
- Bitcamp
 - i. Enrolled 3 minors!
- Maryland Day and Awards Luncheon coming up

- **Undergraduate Committee – Baiocchi**

- Working on increasing minors and majors
- Idea: appeal to other departments: soc + econ; how can we get some students who are interested in these things
- Make syllabi more exciting
- How welcoming are we; can we accommodate students with different backgrounds
- Ideas on how to promote- send to Baiocchi

- **Graduate Director Academic Issues – DeFloriani**

- News
 - i. 15 offer accepted for phd and 2 for ms
 - ii. President award: had one application which was successful
 - iii. One flagship app but student not coming
 - iv. Will work on advertising for next year
- Approving the phd handbook (edits are in red ink): <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Yt5bo1Pec3Q8TzaY5UzWXM2Pte2SorAF/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112103935895789276938&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Motion passed (29 votes)
- A motion to remove the supplemental applications from our phd application requirements (they provide the same/duplicate content in their statements of purpose and CVs).
 - i. supported by grad committee in their last meeting
 - ii. Passed (32 votes)

- **Graduate Committee – Silva**

- Grad program data Recon for AGU Bridge Application
 - i. mentoring and advising component: finished interviews
 - ii. PAC meeting powerpoint template (for first pac meeting); Julie is working on it
 - iii. Proposal to create grad student lounge in LeFrak 1115

- **Research Faculty Committee – Sahajpal**

- Updates
- Finished PTK merit reviews

- **Lecturer Committee – Resop**

- Merit review guidelines

- **Graduate Student Organization – Baer**

- Elections starting next week for GSO president and vice president. Please encourage students to apply for this.
- Peer-to-peer mentoring program
 - i. Effort led by Jeff Sauer; 12 BS/MS students and PhD students paired as mentor/mentee
 - ii. Info circulating end of this semester
 - iii. Creating a support system among students

- **DEI**

- Shared new DEI webpage
- Demonstrates actual actions we take; not just virtue signaling

- **Website/Intranet – Miranda**

- New intranet link at top of current intranet
 - i. We will convert to new intranet in June
 - ii. Can submit requests for information to be added to intranet with form
- BSOS website update
 - i. Update planned over summer

- **Any Other Business**

- New travel system
 - i. Vivre will send out more FAQs
 - ii. They are discovering glitches; let Vivre know

Upcoming Events

- Departmental Awards Luncheon: May 6th 1:00-3:00 pm: [Please RSVP now!](#)
- Maryland Day: April 30th 10:00am-4:00pm
- Commencement: May 19th 12:00 – 1:30 pm
- High School Recognition Banquet: June 9th 6:00-8:00pm