

**Department Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday 10/27/23**  
**10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., River Road 325 & Zoom**

**Accept minutes from last meeting and approval of agenda:** Approved

**Attendance:** 25 people

**Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Loboda**

- Out-of-State Work Policy drafts have been seen by the BSOS dean, but still hasn't been made available to Tatiana so we don't know the specifics yet.
  - PA/DE/VA/DC/potentially WV will be considered neighbors
- Unionization of Students
  - If Grad Students are successful in unionizing with UAW, there is the potential of restriction on communication with them. Forum is an opportunity to voice your thoughts.
- Tragedy on Campus
  - With the recent tragedy on campus, I would like to remind people that UMD has additional resources available to you. Please refer to Dr. Rivera's email for those resources.
- New Hires
  - Kristi Edgerton-Conway will work on grant coordination
  - Naielia Allen will help with appointments, promotions, job searches and more
  - Dr. Christian Fohringer, postdoctoral research associates in Gore's Lab
  - Dr. Takem Mbi, postdoctoral research associates in Gore's Lab
- Laixiang Research Published in Maryland Today.
- New Building Updates
  - Despite the proposal leak, there is no money for any new building
  - Very unlikely that the new building will actually be a part of the 5-year plan
  - Ambition is there, money isn't
- Space Allocation
  - There will be no dislodging at this time
  - Will be reconsidered with the next round of hires
- Emergency Preparedness
  - UMD has prepared an organized set of information
  - Includes on like hurricane response, active shooter scenarios, etc.: guide, a cheatsheet and a magnet. **Action Item:** Place them in the room 325
- Sheena Michele Mason, "[Human Migration & DNA Analysis from \*The Raceless Antiracist\*](#)" at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 6 at STAMP |Juan Ramon Jimenez Room 2208 (bring slide)
- Open Research Day, Dec. 7, 2 to 6 p.m: faculty, deans and dignitaries are planning to come. More details to come
- Dept Seminar has been outstanding. Faculty are encouraged to come. More advertising is needed to reach undergraduate students.
- Campus-River Road transportation is discussed. Sinead volunteers to advocate with Discovery District.

**Associate Chair Issues – Hurtt**

- Geography Week, GIS Day (middle of the week): open to everybody: targeting grad students, and on Wednesday, GIS Day, bringing high school students: **Suggestion:** Submit event to AAG
- High School Internship: will be hybrid again, faculty members invited to mentor.

### **Undergraduate Director Issues – Yearwood**

- Midterm grades glitches
- Career panel: 70 students attended, and interested in GIS
- Tech Block Party: Byron tabled.
- Majors: No complete date from BSOS; Flat numbers from last year so far.
- Continued discussion on ways to attract and retain those on the waiting list of computing majors.

### **Undergraduate Committee – Sun**

- Issues related to Learning Outcome Assessment: not just homework, but work skills. Task George and the teaching team to look at 400-level courses: it should have research integrated.
- Recommendation of UG Committee on using ChatGPT & other AI tools in classes vs academic mis-conduct.
  - Clear statements in syllabi about what is/is not allowed for each class.
  - Depending on how you may or may not want your students using AI-based tools such as ChatGPT, here is some sample language:  
<https://tltc.umd.edu/artificial-intelligence-ai>

### **Graduate Director Academic Issues – DeFloriani & Haber**

- [TA/GRA swap policy update](#) (and vote, with deadlines changed). Votes: 25 in favor. **Motion passed.**
- GA assessment renewal letter reminder. Deadline is Nov. 1 for PIs (for GRAs) and the Assoc Chair for (TAs).
- SME and spring 24 TA reminder. Due Jan. 2. Tatiana reminds: work starts on Jan. 2. More details on [Haber slides](#)
- Graduate Committee will discuss inequities between hybrid opportunities between graduate and international students, in context of IRS policies.
- Dissertation committee make-up reminder.
- Nominate grad students to awards and distinguished dissertation award

### **Grad Director**

- Admissions review process: rubric will be the topic for the next meeting.
- Outstanding Graduate Assistant (OGA) Award due to Leila/Kuishuang by 11/3/23.
- Graduate Learning Outcomes Assessment - updates
- Complaints about exams. Those with comments must send them to Leila.

### **Graduate Committee – Feng**

- Get our MS student exposed to PAC: Can 5-year students get recognised by the MS program? How to progress students along in our programs. Tatiana suggests starting with a proposal.
- Grad students complain about transportation.
- International student fees under consideration.
- Expand the course credit recognition to MS GIS.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Committee – Gore**

Gore will be arriving from her trip to Vietnam trip and may not attend. These are her updates:

- The DEIAR Committee is working to support GEOG engagement with Dr. Mason on November 6..
  - Our DEIAR committee will host Dr. Sheena Mason, at River Road from 2-3 p.m. on Nov. 6, Monday. Dr. Mason was also recently featured in the Washington Post as one of the individuals working to change the language around "race" for the 2030 U.S. Census. As questions around "race" continue to be relevant to our studies in this department, this afternoon session will present an opportunity to discuss the importance of the language we use to communicate demographics. We would encourage all graduate students and researchers to attend this event in-person.
- Happy hour at Denizens on Thursdays. Few people are attending. More reminders are needed.
- Interest in wellness discussions? Undergrad and grad chairs are invited to get involved and help organize it.
- Faculty Senate: meeting minutes and materials can be found at UMD faculty senate website. Gore is on the Senate Executive Committee.
  - We are updating student code of conduct policies
  - Proposal to establish a BS in Global Health on the books
- Council of University System Faculty-Gore is one of UMD's reps
  - Check out the [website](#) and let her know if anyone has any comments or questions, anytime.

### **Res Fac AEP Criteria Review Task Force – Skakun**

- Updates on Skakun's task group on PTK AEP: Deep dive into job description and how it related to UMD guidelines. Discussion about research professor vs. research scientist.
- Sasha: Discussion about PTK titles, merit template, space allocation problems (people don't like hotelling and hot desking), preference is office sharing, hard to make a case that we need more space now, though. Discussion about Blue Diamond keeping track of people in and out.

### **Faculty Specialists Committee – Munshell**

Blake is off, but sent these updates:

- Worked with Anna Komarova and Evan Ellicott to organize ResFac/FS thoughts on onboarding, will work with them going forward to improve onboarding process
- Worked with Evan Ellicott to provide ResFac/FS thoughts on space allocation to Tatiana

**More upcoming events:**

- The Office of Sustainability is hosting a Mindful Consumption Lecture with Dr. Giovanni Baiocchi on Nov. 16 from 3 to 4 p.m. Register to attend [here](#).