

Geographical Sciences Retreat Action Items

Kent Manor Inn April 25-27, 2018

ACTION ITEM: Increase Geographic Information Systems (GEOG373) to 150 seats in Spring 2019 with Department initially paying for the cost of the additional sections, while dialogue is developed with BSOS on developing long term support for example by trading off with other seat allocations - **Luna**

- This is being done to be responsive to increased demand for these seats from other departments and colleges on Campus and will be initiated in the Spring to gauge demand. The Fall offering of GEOG373 will stay at the current 75 seats
- If successful, we will consider expanding the seats in GEOG306 and GEOG373 as well

ACTION ITEM: Evaluate the possibility of having three of the Spring 2019 GEOG373 lab sections fully online instead of physically in the teaching labs (or possibly alternating between online and physical lab for all the sections) to help reduce scheduling conflicts in the lab. Students can access the virtual lab from other labs on campus (like the BSOS labs) so this could also be an option – **Marroquin, Luna and tech staff**

ACTION ITEM: Advertise the proposal to increase the number of seats in GEOG373 and contact the departments and colleges that have expressed interest so they can advise their students and we can gauge interest. Query best times to teach with the interested departments. Response to be reported at May 11th Departmental Committee Meeting – **Luna and Stewart**

ACTION ITEM: Memo to be written to Katherine Russell and Wayne McIntosh outlining that GEOG is expanding the GEOG 373 seats and will cover the cost for the first year but that we will need BSOS to contribute in future years. – **Luna and Stewart**

ACTION ITEM: – Look into making GEOG373 an I-Series course so we can negotiate shifting our General Education seat requirements so we can dedicate General Education TAs to the additional GEOG373 lab sections. – **Luna, Teaching Committee**

ACTION ITEM: Consider tailoring labs in GEOG373 toward CRIM or other interested majors to get them to take our course instead of teaching their own GIS course. Contact CRM on their GIS needs – **Stewart and Teaching Committee**

ACTION ITEM: Summarize at May 11th Departmental Committee Meeting the graduate credit rule and what is the impact if we change it, for example the reduced cost versus graduate students enrollment in our classes, etc. – **Sun**

ACTION ITEM: Continue the discussion regarding the engagement and improvement of undergraduate students in the program. How do we make our program a vibrant and fulfilling experience for undergraduates – **Undergraduate Committee**

ACTION ITEM – Redesign the content and title for the Human Geography Courses in order to get rid of content overlap in the classes and to develop titles to attract students. Need to submit changes as one large proposal to VPAC – **Human Teaching Team to Teaching Committee**

ACTION ITEM – Explore the connections and synergies possible with SESYNC – **Dubayah and Justice**

ACTION ITEM: Consider developing a 200 level R programming course as a prereq to GEOG306. Consider cross listing this new course with BSOS to get students from across BSOS – **RS/GIS Teaching Team and Dubayah**

ACTION ITEM: A proposal for a new major in Computational Social Environmental Sciences needs to be presented at the May 11th Departmental Committee Meeting – **Hubacek, Luna and Dubayah**

- Plan needs to be developed before Klaus goes on Sabbatical
- Giovanni, Laixiang and Julie will need to push the plan forward this coming academic year.

ACTION ITEM: Flesh out ideas for a proposed new joint major with CS needs to be developed before the Chair and Assoc. Chair meeting with Chair of CS. Plan should be a win-win -for both Departments for example, GEOG would get credit for the majors and would take on the role of advising the majors to help CS deal with their over subscription problem - **DeFloriani, Luna, Stewart and Dubayah**

ACTION ITEM: Propose ways to get better attendance at the seminar series to be presented at the May 11th Departmental Committee meeting – **Dubayah**

ACTION ITEM: Feasibility analysis of going to a one and one teaching load needs to be done. This will require right sizing of the teaching program, including a review of the number of classes taught by TT and PTK faculty, and a review of what course level TT faculty should teach including lower level high enrollment courses – **Justice, Bell and Berndston**

ACTION ITEM: It was agreed that if a TT faculty member's course doesn't have sufficient students enroll, they will owe the department a course above normal load the next academic year. Associate Chair will track and implement in next year's load calculations – **Dubayah and Berndston**

ACTION ITEM: It was agreed that we are teaching too many graduate level courses in relation to the number and interests of our PhD students. It was proposed that the most graduate courses needed in a semester was four, one in each category (Human, Physical, Methods) and a special course to be rotated amongst the faculty on a topic in their research area. It was also proposed that the Spring 2019 course selection needs to be reduced and the number of cross-listed courses need to be reduced. 400 level courses should fill seats by advertising to undergraduates. A formal proposal needs to be developed for right sizing our graduate courses – **All Teaching Teams and Berndston**

ACTION ITEM: Consider the feasibility of one fundamental coupled course (Human / Physical) that needs to be team taught. The need for this course needs to be considered when right-sizing the teaching program for the one and one load analysis – **Teaching Committee**

ACTION ITEM: Faculty consensus was that we should change the title for the MPS programs to remain competitive and it was agreed that we will try for Master of Science in GIS and GEOINT over Masters in GIS and GEOINT. Explore whether we can use MS and if not, use Masters - **Stewart**

ACTION ITEM: Faculty approved having both of the MPS programs (GIS and GEOINT) under the umbrella of the Center for GIS, rather than the current organization where the MPS GIS program is under the Associate Chair and the GEOINT is under the Center Director. This will give the MPSGIS program access

to the Center resources and the Center Director will provide oversight formally to both programs -
Stewart

ACTION ITEM: Hire a consultant to develop and create branding and marketing materials for the department as outlined in Tatiana Loboda's presentation. Based on the success of the developed materials, consider hiring someone part or full-time to do branding and marketing for the whole department – **Justice and Bell**

ACTION ITEM: Develop a proposal for a strategic partnership between Wuhan and the Department with a focus on Remote Sensing as part of the Departments Center of Excellence in Remote Sensing. The Chair will consider providing some initial funding for this initiative to get it started – **Liang, Justice and Dubayah.**

ACTION ITEM: Rent a photobooth for the graduation reception on May 21st - **Hall**

ACTION ITEM: Provide the Departmental GSO with an annual budget for their activities including one annual event with a big name speaker. GSO should also represent the MPS students. Amount of budget needs to be determined based on GSO activities and Departmental budget – **Bell**

ACTION ITEM: Develop proposal about how, and at what level, the department can pay for the publication costs for scientific articles required for their degree by TAs or GRAS whose article is not supported by their grant funding. An estimate is needed on how many papers this would be on average and the approximate cost to the Department. The library will pay for half of one graduate publication per year for a graduate student and it would be good for the department to pay at least the other half – **Graduate Committee, Bell and Justice**