

## Departmental Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday 2/24/17

### Attendees:

Chris Justice, Vivre Bell, Giovanni Baiocchi, Leila De Floriani Ralph Dubayah, Matt Hansen, Klaus Hubacek, Shunlin Liang, Tatiana Loboda, Grant McKenzie, Christina Prell, Kathleen Stewart, Laixiang Sun, Rubio Han, , Rachel Berndtson, Naijun Zhou, , Jack Ma, Ron Luna, Elle Lim, Jonathan Resop, , Louis Giglio, , Kristen Bergery, Byron Marroquin, Meredith Brown, Sergii Skakun, , Annette Spivy, , Brian Barker, Doug Rao, Amanda Hall, Suzanne Marselis, , Peter Potapov,

Absent: Martha Geores (emergency), George Hurtt,,Julie Silva, Eric Kasischke (IPA)

- Introductions of new faculty and staff – Justice
- Recent Developments and Chair's Update – Justice

Individuals having travel or immigration issues should let the Chair know. Campus is recommending that you should not travel to countries on the travel ban.

APT subcommittees are reminded to include Liz Smith, APT Administrator, in meetings. Mentors should work with the advisees on developing their packages.

There is a 1% mid year state budget cut for FY17. There will not be cola or merit for FY18 but faculty should submit their one page of accomplishments by the end of April (TT – Liz Smith, RF – Christine Kang).

Reminder that outside professional activities higher than 400 hours in a given year raise a red flag and will be questioned by BSOS. If you anticipate significant outside professional activities, you should discuss with the Chair.

Reminder to avoid cancelling scheduled committee meetings as they are very hard to reschedule. If you must cancel, it is critical you let everyone know, including Byron to remove from the departmental calendar and geog-list so people do not show up.

- Accept previous meeting minutes and approval of agenda
- Associate Chair Issues – Dubayah

No issues to discuss. Department is submitting a proposal to BSOS/Provost for four additional TAs to expand technical courses in department.

**Retreat Action Item:** Discussion needed on GIS classes – future trajectory of class size and usage of open source GIS. We currently use a mix of open source and proprietary software in our classes.

- Undergraduate Committee – Baiocchi

Three classes have been chosen for the new learning assessment outcomes and a draft will be developed this semester. Two of the three classes have provided the materials all ready and two GAs will be hired to help with the evaluation.

**Retreat Action Item:** Draft learning outcomes assessment will be presented at the retreat to determine if changes need to be made before the fall submittal.

Reminder that all course syllabi should have learning outcomes.

**Retreat Action Item:** Advising office is collecting all course syllabi to see if there are sequential order issues or overlaps to be discussed at the retreat.

Department needs to figure out how our current ENSP concentrations fit into our longer term vision. Many of the courses listed for our concentrations are no longer taught.

- Undergraduate Director Academic Issues – Hurtt

Maryland Day is coming up. Faculty and graduate students are being asked to contribute. Department partners with the GIS Library and Ron Luna and Amanda Hall organize the event.

GTU will be selling T-shirts as a fund drive to support the club.

90+ Undergraduates are graduating this spring. Faculty need to be proactive in recruiting the best students from their classes.

- Graduate Committee – Baiocchi

The 10 credit rule is still being discussed. Antidotal evidence suggests that this rule is being waived for some students and that student cannot find appropriate courses to take.

**Retreat Action Item:** A dataset of what courses students have taken and are taking is being developed for discussion at the retreat - Rachel Berndtson

Special boutique courses are still being discussed.

- Graduate Director Academic Issues – Sun

Two MS and 7 Phd offers have been made to applicants. We have three additional offers pending on confirmation of GRAs. We prefer students to tell us by April 15<sup>th</sup> so that we can offer the funds to other applicants.

Under the new campus gmail system, funded graduate students have two separate email accounts; [username@umd.edu](mailto:username@umd.edu) and [username@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:username@terpmail.umd.edu). The @umd.edu account will terminate once funding terminates. For this reason we are recommending that students forward their @umd.edu account to their terpmail account and post the terpmail account on their web bios.

- Research Faculty Committee – Giglio
  - Discussion about the differences in the Research Professor and Research Scientist PTK titles

The option of Post-Doctoral Associates requesting promotion to Research Assistant Scientist or Research Assistant Professor was discussed for cases where the Post-Doctoral Associate had not been a PI or Co-I on a research project and was not interested in becoming a PI was approved unanimously.

A larger discussion about the differences between Research Scientists and Research Professors based on the new Campus PTK policy is needed in light of our large numbers of research faculty.

It was agreed that for future fiscal years, the Chair of the Research Faculty committee would have 10% of their effort covered by the department's state budget due to the time commitment required to review promotions, etc. now that our research faculty have grown significantly.

A departmental discussion and policy is needed regarding open source access journals and how they should be ranked in terms of merit and promotions. Open access journals have been known to publish flawed articles, in direct contradiction to the recommendations provided by reviewers. They also publish quickly, which is attractive to faculty wanting to get their research published as more tradition journals take, in some cases, years to publish.

- Diversity Task Force – Hansen

Task Force has not met – no updates.

- Computer Task Force – Hansen

A computer operations model for the HPC to allow researchers to buy in to the HPC and to provide the funds to upgrade and refresh the core systems is being developed. Minutes from the meeting will be circulated.

- MPS Advisory Committee Update – Stewart

Two new MPS programs (Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) and China GIS are starting this fall.

We are having ongoing discussions with NOAA regarding teaching MPSGIS courses as part of NOAA's Category B Marine Cartography proposal.

The MPSGIS is piloting a standardized 12-week quarter system for campus this fall which will allow us to accept foreign nationals into the program again.

- GIS Center Update – Stewart

Center had a successful recent visit from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

We are reaching out across campus and are developing a growing list of campus collaborators.

We are beginning to develop a relationship with the NGA and the Army Geospatial Research Center in D.C.

- Retreat Planning – Justice

Retreat Topics Power Point was reviewed and key topics were highlighted with faculty leads.

We will have a MPS session to discuss how to incorporate into the Department the estimated 25 students per year in the new MPSGIS China program. Mengxue Li and Wayne McIntosh BSOS will come for the day.

Should we develop a formal 5<sup>th</sup> year masters centered on GIS?

**Retreat Action Item:** Review POO and update terms of reference for committees, etc for vote at retreat – Bell and Justice

Suggested topics include presentation Thursday night on GEDI, relationship with UMB.

- Any Other Business

#### Upcoming Events

- 3/31/17: Career Day
- 4/5-4/9/17: AAG Annual Meeting Boston
- 4/26-28/17: Departmental Committee Retreat