

FES Department Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th at 11am

Attendees:

Samuel Bell

Matt Betts

Ashley D'Antonio

Jess Downey

Vernita Ediger

Autumn Ellison

Aaron Groth

Reem Hajjar

Troy Hall

Skuyler Herzog

Glenn Howe

Tak Iwamura

Keith Jayawickrama

Eric Jones

Meg Krawchuk

Leon Ligel

Misty Magers

Ian Munanura

Mark Needham

Michael Nelson

Rajat Panwar

Klaus Puettmann

Ron Reuter

Bill Ripple

Steve Strauss

Juliet Sutton

Dana Warren

Updates and announcements, Troy Hall

- The OSU President search is finishing by May. We should know the short list of candidates soon.
- The Baccalaureate core reform committee is currently working on an overhaul of the system. Faculty senate will vote in June on a master template, then in fall we would start working on how to implement the changes. A Difference, power and discrimination topic is probably being added, so we can start thinking of classes we could offer in that area. The Writing 2 requirement may go away or change.
- Year end is coming up, please check your grants and turn in your receipts. That includes any receipts from taking out our recent faculty position candidates.
- The office will remain closed for Fridays during the quarter, and will be closed Monday April 18th
- Critical trainings are due now, please work on them soon.
- Outstanding senior nominations are due soon.
- Raises: all raises will align with the fiscal year moving forward. The system will remain the same as before with most weight attached to annual reviews and a small amount of leeway for merit. Please make sure your FRAs have updated reviews so that they are eligible for raises.
- There is a FES Coffee next week, the topic being effective science storytelling. It will be in person and on zoom. There will also be a coffee next month.
- Search updates: We have possibly secured the Econ policy position choice, notice will go out Thursday or Friday. The Carbon search had their last candidate finish yesterday and their decision will be made soon.
- The strategic planning committee is next meeting this week, where they will be going through the large report from MGT. Details to follow.
- P&T guidelines updates: We last significantly updated our P&T guidelines in 2016, small update in 2018. We don't have sections on FRAs or instructors currently, so we may need to develop those, as well as clarifying Extension position information. There are some language issues, and issues with the length of materials we're currently sending to reviewers. The FES office has developed a timeline document to help clarify the P&T process as well. We also need to make sure that our documents align with the university policy updates.

Introductions

- Jess Downey is an FRA under EJ Davis who started in late 2021. She helps EJ with grants and project management.
- Aaron Groth is a regional fire specialist/professor of practice in Astoria who is interested in joining the FES department. His CV and letter will be sent around soon.

- Emma Sloan is our new grad student representative for the department, so she will be attending some department meetings.

Teaching Policy Discussion

- We are discussing our teaching policy now because under the new bargaining requirements, all departments are required to have a teaching load policy. We have one but it has been several years since it was ratified so it is worth it to examine and potentially revise it. Currently all departments in the College of Forestry are examining their teaching policies and polling their faculty to see if the current policies work for them.
- Discussion:
 - The policy may need clarifying on how a certain number of grad students equal teaching, and how it actually manifests in teaching load, i.e. who then teaches a class if an instructor can drop it.
 - Some faculty liked the other policy examples in that they explicitly discussed how Ecampus design and maintenance and being instructor of record contributes to teaching load. This may be something to start a workgroup over to decide what is reasonable. Our Ecampus policy also rules over this area, so it may be better addressed in that document.
 - There is currently no difference between a grad class and an undergrad class in teaching load. Lots of formulas we could potentially use to rectify this.
 - There is some issue with being very close to but not making TA cutoffs.
 - Are we following the policy as written? Any places there that don't align would highlight places that we could update the policy. Course buyout may be something we want to explicitly add to the policy.
 - The temperature check in the room was that we're best off leaving things the same. Flexibility and leeway given to the department head in deciding these things may work better than trying to thoroughly document every possible issue within the policy. Some people thought it was still good to clarify a few things, but mostly agree to keeping things the same.