

March FES Department meeting notes

March 6 at 10:30am in Richardson 313

Attendance:

Glenn Ahrens

Loren Albert

Dawn Anzinger

Jacob Bukoski

Ashley D'Antonio

Lina DiGregorio

Vernita Ediger

Cristina Eisenberg

Graham Frank

Reem Hajjar

Troy Hall

Skuyler Herzog

James Johnston

Eric Jones

Suhyun Jung

Leon Liegel

Misty Magers

Ian Munanura

Michael Nelson

Rajat Panwar

Klaus Puettmann

Ron Reuter

Amy Riley

Randy Rosenberger

Stacy Rosenberger

Sharon Shen

Emma Sloan

Dave Stemper

Chris Still

Steve Strauss

Juliet Sutton

Eli Swanson

Dana Warren

Graham Frank – WFGRS Reminder

Fri April 14, WFGRS student conference will be happening in the building. Faculty reviewers for presentations are needed. Sign up sheets passed around during the meeting, but email also sent out today.

General announcements

1st community coffee in a while is this Wednesday. Links to reading and video were sent out in email.

Update on department head search: times for meetings, activities, and presentations were sent out recently, and will be held March 14-21. Please sign up for a time to meet with the candidates if interested.

Randy Rosenberger- Updates

- Outstanding Alumni award nomination time approaching: Four FES nominees to pick from this year. This will go around soon for a vote over email.
- Strategic Plan & Bylaw update: Strategic plan and bylaws were previewed at last all-college meeting. FES was the only department that had input on bylaws. At first the college admin said that bylaws would be the same as the existing admin memos, but there were several key changes. The teaching policy was changed to add a buy out policy that puts cost on the faculty member, but there will be future discussions on this and it may change. Science advocacy policy also changed a little and there have already been good suggested updates. They are committed to having a full dialogue about all of the bylaws before they are adopted.

Troy – BACC Core reform updates and discussion

Learning outcomes criteria and rationale for new plan are now out and available for viewing. The bacc core reform is being discussed at Faculty Senate twice this month, and voted on in April. Some changes to class sizes and other aspects may have big implications later on. Existing FES bacc core classes will need to be updated and recertified. Some FES classes are currently in

a bacc core section that will not exist in the future, so they would either need to be retooled to a different section or no longer be in the bacc core. The additional writing requirements will mostly be taught by the writing department, but we can think about connections or creating our own classes for that section if we want to. 'Seeking solutions' and some other new bacc core topics may be ripe for a FES class we could create or bend to match. Curriculum committees will need to meet soon to talk through potential changes to degrees. The work of modifying existing courses will also need to be allocated and compensated, though this may be a dean-level decision. Training and process procedures are being developed now. For the first year each course designator is limited to 5 course proposals to avoid these committees being overloaded. These proposals will be due in fall, for fall 2024 implementation.

Michael Nelson – Staffing committee update

Staffing committee met recently to look at what former priorities lists looked like, and moved forward the items from old lists we wanted to keep. A FES identity for future positions is key. We're very broad as a department but a useful mechanism for thinking about our hiring priorities is that if something could easily fit into another department in the COF, then it isn't a good FES position. The committee drafted a short list of wanted positions, both those which replace departures and which present new opportunities. TEK and climate change will be relevant to most of these, although a TEK and Indian Law –specific position sounds important at this point. Tropical forest initiative still also seems like a good idea, but what shape that would take is undecided. Urban Forestry is also a hot topic that has potential federal funding, and the urban forestry program could be expanded and strengthened with more than one faculty member.

Randy Rosenberger – Spousal accommodation

A new spousal hire was sent to FES for consideration. We need to think about whether this hire would be a good use of our resources at this time. There are also concerns about the overlap of this person's expertise with current FES faculty. Botany will also be looking into this person so we can either decline entirely or piggyback on their interview. A vote will be sent out this week over email.