

Forest Ecosystems and Society

Department Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2020

Remote through Zoom

In Attendance:

Glenn Ahrens	Dawn Anzinger	Carrie Berger
Matt Betts	Badege Bishaw	Sonia Bruck
Janean Creighton	Ashley D'Antonio	Lina DiGregorio
Michelle Greene	Reem Hajjar	Troy Hall
Glenn Howe	Lara Jacobs	Meredith Jacobson
Keith Jayawickrama	James Johnston	Katy Kavanagh
Meg Krawchuk	Rebecca Lemons	Kreg Lindberg
Misty Magers	Ian Munanura	Mark Needham
Michael Nelson	Wilman Placido-Made	Klaus Puettmann
Suzanne Remillard	Ron Reuter	Bill Ripple
Stacy Rosenberg	Randy Rosenberger	Sharon Shen
Dave Stemper	Chris Still	Steve Strauss
Juliet Sutton	Dana Warren	Brad Withrow-Robinson

Updates and Announcements from Department Head, Troy Hall

- Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's WFGRS online presentations.
- Anthony Davis's update email this week mentioned that the FERM department is starting an internal search for a new department head. Please let them know if you would like to apply or participate in the search.
- Commencement is still postponed, more details to come later.
- The remote teaching survey results are in and were emailed out to everyone this week. Students are noticing decreased motivation and feelings of detachment. Be aware of those concerns in your classes.
- The Provost is currently planning for fall classes to be taught on campus to the extent possible, though final word will depend on the Governor's decisions. Start thinking about creative ways to deliver your courses while respecting safety guidelines like having everyone 6 feet apart. Let Troy know your thoughts.
- We currently have nine confirmed fall students for the FES on-campus graduate program, which is more than double last year's numbers.
- Given the small number of students in this year's MS/PhD cohort, and the fact that our new hire will not be here for fall quarter, the graduate program committee voted to modify the required classes for the cohort starting their second year in the fall. Specifically, we will not teach the planned second year class (FES 525) this fall, and have identified a substitute course for those students to take.

- No study abroad programs will happen this year, which will affect people who were planning to teach study abroad courses this year. People should confer with Troy about alternative ways to meet teaching obligations.
- The Provost is still running scenarios for major budget cuts. Salary reductions for faculty are possible.
- The EECB seminar series will be happening entirely online this fall. The presentations should be posted to YouTube so that people outside OSU will be able to participate. The speakers will be giving lectures on how ecology can inform our response to the current and future pandemics.

Updates from the Research Office, Katy Kavanagh

- The COVID-19 shutdown process went well, and now the university is preparing plans for safe ramp up when we eventually re-open.
- There will be a form that all P.I.'s will be required to fill out on their COVID strategies. This will be coming from the university, not the college.
- The Governor's order affecting OSU does not expire until June 13, so do not expect any changes until then. Even under phase 1 of the Governor's plan, most employees will still be working from home. Counties opening or staying closed are not relevant to OSU's operational decisions (OSU is governed by separate executive order).
- If you do fieldwork in a given county, you are still going to be subject to the university's guidelines regardless of the county's rules.
- Elliot State Forest update: the committees are still working and moving forward. The Dean recently formed a new scientific advisory panel made of outside-OSU scientists so that they do not have stakes in the outcome.