Forest Ecosystems and Society

Department Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Richardson 115

In Attendance:

Jessica Bagley	Misty Magers
Matt Betts	Ian Munanura
Badege Bishaw	Mark Needham
Janean Creighton	Michael Nelson
Becky Fasth	Melora Park
Lisa Ganio	Vanessa Petro
Reem Hajjar	Bill Ripple
Troy Hall	Jim Rivers
Meg Krawchuk	Steve Strauss
Bev Law	Juliet Sutton
	Dana Warren

Updates and Announcements from the Department Head, Troy Hall

- The new College of Forestry website is live
    - Reach out to them if you have feedback or can't find a certain page
- Advanced Wood Products building progress continues to be on schedule
- Peavy still delayed due to panel review
- FERM Department Head search concluded, expect announcements soon
- New veteran hiring procedures have been implemented- if you are hiring, make sure to know the rules
- New "critical training" modules have been implemented; they are mandatory. You can do them in short pieces or under a couple total hours
- Forestry Computing Committee anticipating hiring soon
    - Contact Lisa with any future computing needs to help guide hiring process

Program Assessments, Vote on PhD Program of Study due date change, and asking for input on core curriculum for FES Graduate Program, Presented by Lisa Ganio

- 5 Year Review of FES graduate programs (MS and PhD) was approved, and there were some reviewer recommendations:
    - Note: recommendations not compulsory, but responses need to be justified
    - Make stronger effort for diversity and inclusion in students and faculty
    - Track graduates after graduation (this is currently in development)

- o Establish a list of recommended courses along with terms offered
- o Form stronger connections between students and potential employers
  - ▪ Forming an External Advisory Board could open avenues
- o Possibly add incentives for faculty to hire grad students and limit post-docs
- Annual graduate program assessment
  - o First year having PhD graduates from the new FES program; great outcomes
  - o 14 MS graduates- half did not publish anything while students, otherwise outcomes fairly good. (It was noted that many MS students do not have publications in print at the time of graduation, but are actively working on publications – would be better to track this one or two years after graduation.)
- Discussion and vote by graduate faculty on proposal to change the due date for the PhD Program of Study and Competency forms from the end of the 3rd term of enrollment to the end of the 5th term of enrollment
  - o This aligns with Graduate School standards
  - o **Vote: 15 yes, 0 opposed or abstain**
- FES Core Curriculum discussion – We have not yet voted on whether to require core courses
  - o Last year's survey showed some support for a small core; this topic has been discussed several times in the past. Students are generally in favor if it not too many credits.
  - o The Grad Curriculum Committee is proposing a 2-course core: FES 520 in 1st year, an interdisciplinary problem solving course for 2nd year (a prototype of this was developed 2 years ago)
    - ▪ Lots of possible avenues- expanding or enriching 520, adding a communication core element or a project proposal course
    - ▪ Concerns: core courses interfering with fieldwork, 520 too basic for PhDs, students and committees resistant to taking extra coursework
  - o Please contact Lisa with ideas on how to enrich or shape FES 520 to prep for core

P&T Revision Discussion, Bill Ripple and Michael Nelson

- Changed several minor phrasing and grammar issues, and a few larger sections
- Discussion this meeting, voting during June meeting. Revised copy will be sent out 2 weeks before next meeting.
- Discussion:
  - o Remote voting needs two-week notice--change this to allow reasonable exceptions
  - o Voting allowed only if one is present for the majority of meeting—reword to reflect the spirit not letter of the law
  - o Required rank of chairs added—if chair is Associate Professor, they abstain from voting on Full Prof promotions
  - o Rephrased the mention of science advocacy for clarity
  - o Timelines were formally added to the P&T guidelines; Troy discussed reasoning for this (explained the process of dossier review, securing external reviewers, time needed for external review, and department and college P&T meeting schedule)
  - o Concern that 9 month hires can't be required to have service or committee obligations over summer

- Not current problem (because the people who will be on dossier committees are not on 9-month appointments, but will watch out for issues in future).