

**Council of Department Chairs
College of the Sciences, Central Washington University
Regular Meeting, January 12, 2006
10:30 a.m., Science 301**

Attending:

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| Barlow, Kathleen - Anthropology | Palmquist, Bruce - Physics/Science Education |
| Darda, David - Biology | Schaefer, Todd - Political Science |
| Ely, Lisa L. - Geology | Schwing, James L. - Computer Science |
| Johnson, Kirk A. - Sociology | Stein, Stephanie - Psychology |
| Kurtz, Martha J. – Chemistry and Science Education | Thomas, Carin - Associate Dean |
| Lillquist, Karl D. - Geography | Tolin, Phil – Associate Dean and Chair, Law and Justice |
| Miller, M. Meghan, Dean | |

Department Reports:

Anthropology

- Lene Pedersen's book is published: Ritual and Social Change in a Balinese Prncedom, Carolina Academic Press.
- Field school for Saddle Mountains is funded by BLM for next summer.
- China Field School will take place next summer.

Biology

- The Cell and Molecular Biologist search has generated approximately 130 applications. Screening is in full swing with interviews planned for February/March.
- Winter 2006 Natural Science Seminar Series begins this Friday (Jan. 13) with Lisa Weyandt, CWU Psychology, speaking on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Fact or Fiction. Speakers are scheduled for Jan. 27 and Feb 10. The remainder of the quarter will be devoted to candidates for Biology's faculty search.
- Steve Wagner and Dave Darda are contributors to a new field guide, Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest, recently published and released by the Seattle Audubon Society.

Chemistry

- Anthony Diaz spoke at the Phosphor Workshop at Asia Display 2005 in Japan. His talk was titled "Crystal chemistry, defect chemistry and degradation processes in BaMgAl₁₀O₁₇:Eu²⁺". This is the plasma display blue phosphor that people have been working on for the last 15 years or so. His graduate student Tracy Watrous also attended.
- The department mailed its first ever Alumni Newsletter to 292 alums and we are enjoying the feedback we are getting.
- Two undergraduate research students working with Levente Fabry-Asztalos, Tajinder Heer and Christopher Abdul-Wahid, were accepted into the Science Honors Program at CWU.
- Anthony Diaz collaborated with Coherent, Inc. Coherent does a lot of research on laser technology.
- The Department has an outstanding offer to our first choice for the Physical/Analytical position we have open.

Computer Science

- Razvan Andonie and Levente Fabry-Asztalos have completed a new grant proposal in computational chemistry to the NIH. Boris Kovalerchuk, Jim Schwing, and Razvan Andonie completed a white paper entitled "Methodology and Tools for multi-modal Data Fusion and Semantic Knowledge Discovery" to the Department of Homeland Security. The Department has made student research awards for travel to Sarah Abdul-Wahid and for equipment to Sarah Abdel-Wahid and Joe Lemley. Geography and Land Studies.

Geological Sciences

- Paul Hoskin flown to London to receive Max Hey Award recognizing one outstanding international young researcher in mineralogy and petrology from the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.
- Lots of Geology faculty attended and/or presented talks at the American Geophysical Union meetings in December (Meghan Miller, Tim Melbourne, Wendy Bohrsen, Jeff Lee, Beth Pratt-Sitaula)
- Beth Pratt-Sitaula submitted proposal to NASA
- Lisa Ely submitted proposal to NSF
- Michelle Tebbe accepted into Science Honors Program (mentor Paul Hoskin)
- STEP program funded for 1- year extension by Provost for 2006-07 academic year.

- Alex Glass organizing Darwin Week activities

Law and Justice

- Sarah Britto sent her book manuscript out. In the process of interview applicants for tenure-track positions. No written backup.

Physics

- Physics major James Mullen was accepted into the Science Honor's program.
- Here is good news for this week.
- The Society of Physics Students (SPS) won an outstanding chapter award this year. Sharon Rosell is the club's advisor.

Political Science

- The Political Science Department had 64 valid applications for the Political Theory/Comparative Politics position, including many impressive candidates. They will meet Tuesday, January 17 to screen for phone interviews.

Psychology

- There were fewer than 30 applicants for the two searches in the Psychology Department. Several are applying to be hired at the associate professor level.
- Lisa Weyandt will have a book signing for her new physiological psychology book January 12.
- Paper in press: Matheson, M.D./, Sheeran, L.K., Wagner, R.S., and Li, J. H. Tourist impact on Tibetan Macaques. *Anthrozoos*.
- Lisa Weyandt has finished the edition of "An ADHD Primer" which will be released this fall with LEA.
- Lisa Weyandt was invited to become a member of two more editorial review boards: Journal of Attention Disorders, and The ADHD Report.

Science Education

- Martha Kurtz had an excerpt published in a publication called Steps Toward Success: Lessons for the EETAP State Program. She developed connections with local districts, agencies, and non-profits to do integrated environment-based education.
- Science Ed faculty worked collaboratively to construct an end-of-major electronic portfolio for science teaching majors. It will give us excellent data on student success in our programs.

Sociology

- Kirk Johnson reported that the search pool for the new tenure-track position in Sociology was relatively small, but the date to begin screening had not passed.

Minutes from January 5, 2006

The January 5, 2006, minutes were approved as revised.

Murdock and Undergraduate Research Grants

The program has room for twelve students and there were six applicants. Carin Thomas has issued a second call for proposals (due February 15). She asked chairs to canvass students Undergraduate research proposals are due February 15. Students may apply for the Murdock program and an undergraduate research grant.

STEP

The Provost has decided to fund STEP for another year.

Development Activities

Dean's Development Activities for January, 2006

Meghan noted that she and George Cole had met with alumni in Tacoma and Renton January 11.

Transforming Lives Campaign

The campaign is being revised in terms of three broad categories.

- (1) Direct aid to students (scholarships, undergraduate research support.
- (2) Supporting faculty. E.g., rotating professorship for undergraduate research.
- (3) Special Projects – List already sent forward (science Phase II, museum projects).

The chairs were asked to align their development priorities with these initiatives.

Math Center

Meghan advised the chairs that the math center is available for all areas. If faculty members have courses with math components, the center staff is available to assist with integrating those elements with other course material. The chairs were asked to encourage faculty to list this resource on their syllabus for appropriate courses.

Thesis Chairs

Meghan consulted the chairs about their feelings about the current process for approving graduate faculty status and assigning faculty to graduate committees outside their home departments. It was the consensus of the chairs that the current process of assigning faculty to graduate committees is working well.

However while on the topic of graduate committees, concern was expressed about the length of time it is taking the graduate office to review theses. Cases were cited in which the process has taken 5 months after submission to the graduate office. This effectively prolongs the time-to-degree period for students. When brought to the Graduate Council this was not deemed to be an issue. However, it is an issue for affected students.

Enrollment Reports

Meghan distributed enrollment reports for the first day of instruction. She asked the chairs to review the enrollment. It was noted that in some instances more than one class was simultaneously scheduled in the same room.

Again concerns about the lack of block registration were expressed. Meghan will check to see if progress is being made toward reinstating this program.

Chair Elections

Three departments are due for department chair elections this year. Meghan asked if the departments would feel comfortable about holding their elections this winter rather than waiting until spring. It was generally agreed that this shouldn't be a problem.

Commencement Ceremony

The current plan is to hold two commencement ceremonies this year: CEPS and COB are slated to hold exercises at 9:30 a.m., and COTS and CAH are scheduled for the afternoon. The same commencement address will be given at each ceremony.

Missing Grades

Meghan noted that the Registrar has made a strong effort to inform faculty if they hadn't submitted grades for registered students. There was general consensus that these problems had been handled.