

**Council of Department Chairs
College of the Sciences, Central Washington University
Regular Meeting, February 9, 2006
10:30 a.m., Science 301**

Attending:

Barlow, Kathleen - Anthropology
Boersma, Stuart F. - Mathematics
Darda, David - Biology
Ely, Lisa L. - Geology
Johnson, Kirk A. - Sociology
Lillquist, Karl D. - Geography

Miller, M. Meghan, Dean
Palmquist, Bruce - Physics
Schaefer, Todd - Political Science
Schwing, James L. - Computer Science
Stein, Stephanie - Psychology
Thomas, Carin - Associate Dean
Tolin, Phil – Associate Dean and Chair, Law and Justice

Department Reports:

Anthropology

- Pat Lubinski (w/ Karl Lillquist): SEED Grant funded to confirm dates on Wenas Mammoth bone.
- Search for REM/Museum Studies hire: 19 of 21 candidates met minimum quals. some very interesting candidates in the pool.
- REM Seminar - Barlow, 2-8-06. The role of museums in Cultural Resource Management: A case study from Papua New Guinea
- Natural Sciences Seminar - Lubinski, 2-10-06: Applications of Zooarchaeology to Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Biology

- The Cell and Molecular Biologist search for three positions is quickly moving to the interview stage. The department has selected six candidates we hope to bring to campus ASAP.
- The Natural Science Seminar Series continues this Friday (Feb. 10) with Pat Lubinski, CWU Anthropology, speaking on Applications of Zooarchaeology to Wildlife and Fisheries Management. The remainder of the quarter will be devoted to candidates for Biology's faculty search.
- Lixing Sun is coauthor on three chapters in the new book Chemical Signals in Vertebrates. Two papers are the result of recent Biology Master's theses and those students are primary authors.

Computer Science

- Razvan Andonie had a journal paper accepted for IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks, "Fuzzy ARTMAP with Input Relevances."

Geography and Land Studies

- The Geography Department will soon bring four candidates to campus for interviews.

Mathematics

- The Mathematics Department has two candidates scheduled for interviews.

Physics

- Bruce Palmquist gave a talk to the Central Association of Lifelong Learning (CALL) called Science and Religion: Must they be at odds with one another.

Political Science

- Prof. Bang-Soon Yoon, after a very successful event with the "Comfort Women" program put on with the Empowerment Center last week, is in Washington, DC, to attend the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association's Committee on the Status of Asian/Pacific Islanders in the Profession, of which she is a member. While there, she will also use library resources and meet with members of the S. Korean consulate.
- The Political Science Department search for a political theory/comparative politics position is going well. They interviewed five candidates by phone and will bring four candidates to campus later this term for on-site interviews. They are very pleased that all four, though with different backgrounds and interests in the secondary areas, appear to be fine candidates.

Minutes of January 26 and February 2, 2006

The January 26, 2006, minutes were approved, and the notes from February 2, 2006, were approved as amended.

Layered Courses

Cross-listed courses and courses with differentiated levels of instruction need to clearly articulate the differences in the two variable designations. The accreditation board is asking for a university-level policy to support this. It was pointed out that CWU's course proposal forms do ask for justification of differentiation of 400-500 level courses.

Faculty Evaluations – Term Appointments

Departments have submitted evaluations of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty when requesting that appointments renewal. Meghan pointed that any single measure, such as SEOI's, aren't sufficient evidence for evaluation under the accreditation standard. Syllabi and course materials must be reviewed as well. Renewal of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty should include a search form 1 as well as evaluations.

General Education

Meghan distributed selected general education course comparisons.

Environment Research and Education Task Force

Meghan asked for nominations for members of the re-convened Environmental Research and Education Task Force. (Marte Fallshore, Lene Pedersen and Gina Bloodworth are already members.) Meghan suggested that the Political Science or Sociology Departments should be represented as well.

Project Kaleidoscope

Tammy Wilson will handle all travel arrangements except for plane reservations for the Project Kaleidoscope workshop next month.

Offerings at University Centers

The need for supporting courses at the university centers is currently under review. The chairs discussed communication problems with the centers when trying to make arrangements for courses. They were particularly frustrated that there is no point person to contact when problems emerge. It's difficult to expand programs at the centers in a logical way because there's no commonality with the Ellensburg campus. There was some discussion about whether there is enough critical mass at the three Westside centers to mount a social science program. There are resource issues that should be solved before expanding Westside offerings.

COTS Case Statement

Meghan will distribute electronically a draft case statement and ask for feedback.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Carin Thomas noted that 10 undergraduate research proposals had been submitted to date with the final deadline (February 3) swiftly approaching. Science Honors proposals are due in the COTS office February 15.

Faculty Summer Research Grants

Phil Tolin noted that the revised deadline for faculty summer research grants was February 10.

Student Retention

CWU's student retention rate is well above the nationwide mean. The chairs were asked to let Phil Tolin know if they can identify any discrete areas in which CWU's retention rate is lagging.

Remaining Winter Quarter Chair Meetings

The next regular department chair meetings winter quarter will be February 23 and March 9.

Dean's Schedule

1. March 3-5 PKAL Facilities workshop
2. March 8 – Westside development activities
3. March 13-20 – out of town (with email contact)
4. June 17-29, Cambridge, Massachusetts