

**Council of Department Chairs  
College of the Sciences, Central Washington University  
Regular Meeting, February 23, 2006  
10:30 a.m., Science 301**

**Attending:**

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

**Department Reports:**

**Anthropology**

- Steve Hackenberger gave a presentation Saturday, February. 18, 2006, at the Stanford University Conference "Cultures of Contact - Archaeology, Ethics, and Globalization". The title of the talk was "Decolonizing Archaeology in the Meseta Murepecha, Michoacan, Mexico: A Case Study," with Tricia Gabany-Guerrero of the University of Connecticut.
- Eric O. Dean, former CWU Anthropology Major and recipient of the Farrell Scholarship in 2004 for post-baccalaureate work in Biology, will give a talk March 24, 2006, at the Trudeau Institute in upstate New York on the research he did regarding tuberculosis, paleopathology and its potential contribution to public health.

**Biology**

- The Biological Sciences Department is conducting on-campus interviews for the Cell and Molecular Biology faculty positions. Research seminars are scheduled through the end of the quarter on Tuesdays and Fridays at 4:00 in Science 147 or 101. All chairs were invited.
- On Friday Feb. 17, Holly Pinkart gave an invited presentation at the AAAS General Meeting in St. Louis in a symposium sponsored by the Earth, Atmosphere and Oceans division entitled With More than a Grain of Salt: Extremophilic Geomicrobial Interactions. Her talk was entitled The Sulfur Cycle in a Haloalkaline Soda Lake and summarized work done with the assistance of Brita Simonson, a former Biology undergraduate.

**Chemistry**

- Martha Kurtz announced the following Chemistry Undergraduate Research awards:

Student name	Faculty mentor	Project Title
Krista J Bjorge	Timothy Sorey	Spectroscopy & Kinetics: Determination of reaction order through fluorimetry.
David Nguyen	Timothy Sorey	Determination of Reduction Potentials for Aqueous Metallic Ions via Coulometry and Data Acquisition.
Elizabeth F. Scott	Timothy Sorey	Spectroscopy and Kinetics: Determination of Reaction Order via Colorimetry.
Lindsay Groce	Anthony Diaz	New Phosphors for Modern Display Applications.
Nicole K. Paulk	Anne Johansen	Radiation wavelength dependency of the photochemical dissolution of ferrihydrite by methanesulfonic acid.
David Nguyen	Levente Fabry	Synthesis of Novel 1,3-Azaborine Heterocycles as Potential HIV-1 Protease Inhibitors.
Nicholas Salim	Levente Fabry	Synthesis of 5,6-Dihdropyran-2-one analogues as potential HIV-1 Protease Inhibitors.

- Tracy Watrous and Anthony Diaz submitted a manuscript to Chemistry of Materials: "Quantitative determination of non-radiative host-to-activator transfer efficiencies in Y2O3:Eu3+ and YBO3:Eu3+ under vacuum ultraviolet excitation".
- Dion Rivera has been hired to fill the tenure-track physical/analytical position beginning Fall 2006.

**Computer Science**

- Boris Kovalerchuk has had a paper accepted to the AAAI 2006 Spring Symposium in Palo Alto. The paper is entitled "Computational Approaches to Analyzing Weblogs

## **Physics**

- Physics major Tony Smith and Professor Andy Piacsek had their abstract accepted for the spring meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. Tony will give a 15-minute presentation based on his Science Honors research. Andy will chair the session.

## **Political Science**

- The Department just finished bringing in three candidates for the Political Theory/Comparative Politics position. We thought all had their strengths and weaknesses, and on the upside probably all could do the job. We will be meeting soon to make a final selection.
- One of our majors, Robin Arquette, just received word she was selected as part of the Norm Mineta Internship Emersion Program at the Washington Center in Washington, DC this upcoming summer; in addition to a scholarship and stipend, she will be placed with the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- John Van Swarthout, our FTNTT faculty member who suffered a heart attack on Feb. 23 and remains in critical condition at Yakima Regional, is doing better than he was - he is conscious though not fully cognizant. However, he is not as well as an earlier report, but the doctors remain cautiously optimistic.

## **Science Education**

- Martha Kurtz attended a working meeting of the North American Association for Environmental Education NCATE Standards Team in Houston, TX on Feb. 9-12. The team is working to prepare national standards for teacher preparation in environmental education. NCATE is a national teacher education program accrediting council.

## **Sociology**

- Kirk Johnson and Cameron McCormick (Geography) have completed the analysis section of the preliminary Washington Water Metering Survey and will be submitting the final report to the State Department of Ecology early next quarter. Our next step will be locating a grant to support the longitudinal study.
- The Sociology Department's review process continues; Ted Wagenaar (an American Sociological Association trained reviewer) was on campus to conduct the external review last week.
- Kande Cleary's Douglas Honors College thesis advisee Christine Olson (Law and Justice major) will present a summary of her study "Serial murders: the feasibility of creating a universal profile for apprehension and prevention" on February 24th at 3:00.
- Nancy Wessel has been serving as the international advisor on two graduate thesis committees at the Universidad de Narino, (Bogota Columbia). She has been invited (with financial support) to participate in the defenses in early May. She will also offer a guest lecture while on the campus.

## **Minutes of February 9, 2006**

The February 9, 2006, minutes were approved as revised.

## **Phased Retirements**

Meghan announced that the phased retirement requests from Phil Tolin and Terry DeVietti had been approved.

## **SOURCE/COTS Alumni Event**

Julie Cloninger, Senior Director of Development, approached the chairs to see if they were interested in combining special alumni events with SOURCE. The chairs were interested, but concluded that it would be difficult to add events to those already scheduled. It was pointed that Nate Harris will assist with details, but even with his assistance time is running short for this particular event. Meghan suggested that the chairs could send any proposals directly to Julie with a copy to George Cole. Julie will review schedules and contact chairs to see if they want to proceed with this concept.

## **STEP Coordinator**

Carin Thomas announced that she is in the process of advertising for a STEP coordinator.

## **Timing of Searches**

Meghan reviewed the impact of conducting interviews for candidates for nine open positions during the last few weeks of winter quarter. She asked which departments expected to complete the interview process and submit requests to offer contracts by the end of winter quarter. Some searches were in the final stages, but several wouldn't be interviewing until spring quarter. Because of her travel plans she asked if anyone would object to her contacting candidates by email while traveling. There were no objections. Meghan stressed the

importance of starting future faculty searches earlier so that finalists could be contacted by the end of winter quarter.

#### **General Education Offerings – Report Formats**

Meghan reported that Linda Beath is working with Tracy Terrell to develop a centralized quarterly report. Meghan asked the chairs to identify information they would like included in such reports.

#### **Programs at University Centers**

The chairs discussed current offerings at university centers and whether financial and administrative resources have been made available to support these offerings. Problem areas included faculty isolation and inadequate staff support, particularly staff assigned responsibility for coordinating offerings department chairs. Security was cited as a very large concern. At some centers there is a sense of danger going to and from parking lots.

#### **Teaching and Learning Center Director**

Meghan noted that James DePaepe has resigned as Teaching and Learning Center Director. Connie Lambert will assume the responsibilities associated with this position.

#### **COTS Summer Research Grants**

Phil Tolin noted that the review process for Summer Research grant applications would begin the week of February 27.

#### **Undergraduate Research Awards**

Undergraduate research applications were reviewed and most were funded. A few were returned to be resubmitted because they included items which the committee wouldn't fund.

#### **Attachments**

Follow up on quarterly General Education Reporting  
Feedback from Scholarship Assessed workshop