

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

Attending:

Boersma, Stuart F. - Mathematics
Cyrus, Michelle. – Sociology Chair
Clerf, LaVelle. - Computer Science
Darda, David - Biology
Ely, Lisa L. - Geology
Kuhlken, Robert T. - Geography

Miller, M. Meghan, Dean
Palmquist, Bruce - Physics/Science Education
Stein, Stephanie - Psychology
Schaefer, Todd - Political Science
Reimund, Mary Ellen - Law and Justice

Minutes of November 2, 2006

The November 2, 2006, minutes were approved as revised.

Department Reports:

Biology and Geological Sciences

- Mary Poulson has had another paper accepted for publication. "Response of Photosynthesis to High Light and Drought for Arabidopsis thaliana Grown Under a UV-B Enhanced Light Regime" (Poulson, Boeger and Donahue). It will be published in the peer-reviewed journal, Photosynthesis Research and is the result of research carried out during her research leave in Spring 2006.
- Steve Wagner has another paper in press, this one in the Journal of Heredity, a top-tier genetics journal. The paper describes the genetic diversity of Southern Torrent Salamander, a Pacific Northwest endemic mature forest-associated species, and defines conservation units. "Spatial genetic structure and regional demography in the southern torrent salamander" by M.P. Miller, S.M. Haig, and R.S. Wagner.
- Co-PIs Gazis, Wagner, Quitadomo, Kurtz, and Pratt-Sitaula have been awarded a 3.2 million G - K12 NSF grant - the Yakima WATERS project. This interdisciplinary project will fund 6 graduate students per year in COTS and is designed to bring a more mature science curriculum into local middle schools and high schools.
- Susan Belmont, an undergraduate in biology under the mentorship of Steve Wagner and Jim Johnson, presented a talk at an international meeting sponsored by the Canadian Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Network. The presentation, "Chytridiomycosis in Pacific Northwest Amphibians: Death and Pestilence in Your Backyard", highlighted research on the growing threat to Northwest amphibian biodiversity.
- On Nov. 3, four faculty members from the Biology Department at Yakima Valley Community College met with our Curriculum Committee to discuss and compare our introductory majors sequences. Following the meeting, a social hour allowed for more informal discussion among Biology faculty, staff, and graduate students and our YVCC colleagues.
- On November 3-4, Dave Darda attended the Northwest Regional Human Anatomy and Physiology (HAPS) Conference. Session topics included high altitude physiology, offering online anatomy and physiology, and interactive cadaver imaging technology.

Physics

- Sharon Rosell, physics, and Society of Physics Students Taylor Kendall, Chris Parker, and Travis Peterson presented four workshops "Making Waves," to middle school girls at an Expanding Your Horizons conference at Yakima Valley Community College on November 11.
- Sharon Rosell and physics majors James Mullen and Chris Parker attended the annual meeting of the Washington Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers at Seattle Pacific University on November 4.

Political Science

- Yoon – trafficking illegal aliens from North Korea. Barb Rieffer-Flanagan – speaking on Israeli/Pakistani issue. Program review department retreat to take place Monday.

Pat McLaughlin Retirement

Meghan reminded the chairs of the going away party for Pat McLaughlin, who is retiring, Monday, November 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Library.

Distinguished Professor Nominees

Meghan encouraged appropriate nominations for the distinguished professor awards and is willing to write supporting letters.

Managing Individual Studies/Arranged Course Forms

Meghan noted that it has been difficult to ensure that the individual study forms include 495's and 700's. She requested that they use the arranged course form only to offer courses that are in the catalog but need to be taught on an individual basis to meet graduation requirements. Field courses, thesis, and cooperative education courses should be processed with individual studies forms.

Holiday Reception and Party

Meghan asked the chairs to identify things to celebrate and people to recognize. She noted that a FIPSE speaker has been scheduled for December 4 and a reception will be held after. The speaker will discuss core curriculum across the social sciences, including economics and history as well as social science disciplines in COTS.

One Book One Campus – 0708 “Lessons from History”

There was some discussion about possible books to select for the one book, one campus project for 2007-08 that might fit in with the President's theme, “Lessons from History.” Some books mentioned were Kite Runner, No Ordinary Time, Guns, Germs and Steel, Undaunted Courage, and Moon Tiger.

Approval of Finalists for Open Positions

Meghan noted that if candidates are approved as finalists on the PeopleAdmin program the position is removed from the CWU website. To avoid this problem, the dean will email her approval of interview candidates so positions can remain posted until filled.

Hiring CWU Civil Service Employees as Adjunct Faculty

It has become very complicated and expensive to hire civil service employees to teach courses as quarter-by-quarter faculty because of rules governing civil service overtime pay. With the exception of overtime ineligible civil service employees, such appointments discouraged.

NSF MRI Opportunity

Meghan noted that a recent NSF MRI announcement could provide a funding opportunity for a research museum in the Dean Hall project. The announcement is on the NSF website.

2006 Summer Revenue

The 2006 summer revenue is anticipated to be less than it has been in recent years for a variety of reasons. The dean asked chairs to consider for future discussion how to approach the new mandate that faculty development be managed internally by the colleges.

COTS Equipment Grant Review Committee

Three faculty members will be assigned responsibility for review equipment grant requests. Nominations were sought.

Capital projects Update

Building expenses have increased by 10% since building funds were requested for Dean Hall. Planning for 2011-13 Phase II has a preliminary budget of \$80 million for a building 60% the physical size of the original science building.

Development Officer Candidates

Meghan noted that there are two finalists for the COTS Development Officer position.

Friday Fest

The Political Science Department and the College of Business will host the November 17 Friday Fest.

Next Meeting

The next Department Chair meeting will be Thursday, November 30. (This will be the last meeting for fall quarter.)

Attachments

1. MRI Program Description
2. Guidance on research and thesis credits (from Stephanie Stein)
3. Performance expectations report
4. HECB Enrollment report
5. CWU Accountability report