

GPSA Coordinating Committee
Meeting Summary
14 October 2009

Present were Alok Bhandari, Carmen Bain, Jerry DeWitt, Mark Gleason, Matt Liebman, Charles Sauer, and Mary Wiedenhoeft.

Agenda items

- 1) review of budget
- 2) admissions committee
- 3) curriculum committee
- 4) publicity committee
- 5) review of 620X
- 6) ad hoc items

Mary Wiedenehoeft called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

1) The current standing of the various budget lines were reviewed. No major losses appear imminent. The MOU to renew Leopold Center and CALS RA funding in FY11 has been submitted to both. Jerry DeWitt indicated that the climate seems favorable for approval by the Center. No input has been received from CALS yet. The final decision is pending.

Resolved: The program officers will continue to monitor the situation and respond as needed.

2) Mary Wiedenhoeft reported on progress with the Admissions Committee. A new committee chair has been identified – Dick Schultz (NREM). The committee is due for a nearly complete rotation of membership. Reforms to admissions procedures and policies have been proposed.

Resolved: When Dick returns to campus, a follow-up meeting with him will be scheduled with the program officers and coordinator. Membership and proposed reforms will be reviewed. The goal is to develop a plan to present to the Coordinating Committee at the next meeting, 12 November.

3) Mary reported on the status of the Curriculum Committee. She proposed the appointment of a co-chair who would be groomed to succeed the current chair. The majority of committee seats are due for membership rotation.

Resolved: Mary will follow up with the chair, Heidi Asbjornsen, to discuss the identification of a co-chair. Nominations will be solicited to fill upcoming open seats. The Curriculum Committee is scheduled to meet on 28 October.

4) Mary reported on the status of the ad hoc publicity committee. Membership remains to be identified.

Resolved: Mary will solicit nominations as soon as practical.

5) Matt Liebman presented a summary of the experimental course offering SUSAG 620X, Food, Energy, and Quality of Life in Iowa, presently under way. Matt is co-instructing the course with Gretchen Zdorkowski and Robert Costanza of the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics at the University of Vermont. The course has presented some organizational challenges but has been very well received by the students. Matt has been in contact with a representative of the University of Vermont (outside of the Gund Institute) who has expressed interest in offering the course again on a cooperative basis.

Resolved: Matt is maintaining contact with Vermont, as well as considering other cooperative options with UC-Davis and Michigan State. Channels of communication will remain open. The decision to offer or not offer the course will be made in the spring.

6) ad hoc items

- The double degree program with CRP remains under development. The College of Design Curriculum Committee is presently reviewing the proposal.
- John Reganold is visiting campus in December as a guest speaker for the colloquium. Other meetings will be coordinated as appropriate.
- Matt Liebman reminded those present of the Pesek Colloquium on 27 and 28 October.
- The 2010 GPSA research symposium was briefly discussed. The projected date is the end of April, depending on the availability of a guest speaker. Gretchen Daily, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University, and Rosamond Naylor, director of the Program on Food Security and the Environment at Stanford University, were mentioned as possibilities. Mark Gleason will begin exploring prospects.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.