

Web Access to course/curriculum proposal (<http://cww.esf.edu/coi/curprop.htm>)

Web access to course/curriculum proposals: faculty log-in site provides access to all curriculum proposals.

Updated curriculum proposals formats: formats are available on the ESF website through the faculty log-in on and off-campus.

New format for course proposals: format has changed slightly with no resulting change in the content of a proposal. This will make it easier to catalog in the University database.

New courses:

Dr. Davis asked to act on courses in a block. Measure passes to adopt all courses unanimously.

New courses proposed:

EFB 337 - Field Ethnobotany

EFB 390 - Wildlife Ecology & Management

FOR 204 - Natural Resources in American History

FOR 720 - Theoretical Fnd'ns. of Natural Resources and Env. Policy

All course proposals were available for review prior to the faculty meeting. The four new courses were voted on in one block; the motion to accept all four courses was passed unanimously.

New undergrad minor proposed by construction management:

The minor in construction management for ESF students was put to vote; the motion to accept new minor was passed unanimously.

Revision of undergraduate/graduate degree program:

Adjustments to the fast-track BLA/MS: no discussion, motion was accepted unanimously.

Research Committee Report

Dr. C Nowak

The following three items are being worked on by the research committee: Working with office of research to improve website, Working with Mac Stennis proposal review system, and re-visiting of 11 action items from strategic plan to see how we are moving forward with them.

Committee on Public Service & Outreach

Dr. Stipanovic

Faculty Governance Committee on Public Service and Outreach meeting was held on November 4, 2004. the committee consists of the following people: President Murphy, Cheryl Doble, Rudy Schuster, Jim Hassett, Valerie Luzadis, Bill Smith, Don Leopold, Larry Abrahamson, Rachel Habig (Graduate Student), Jeri, Lynn Smith (ex-officio), Chuck Spuches (ex-officio), Julie White (ex-officio). The objectives for the academic year 2004-2005 are as follows:

- Focus on linkages between the Public Service / Outreach and the Teaching and Research missions of ESF

- Recognize / celebrate successful, existing programs where this linkage has been established. (For example, the SUNY-ESF Center for Community Design Research, Faculty of Landscape Architecture).
- Tentative: Participate in the “Symposium on Teaching and Learning” to advance the “linkage” focus.
- Other activities: Stimulate additional items for the web-based Environmental Information Series, co-sponsor the “Spotlight”, host a Faculty meeting discussion piece on Public Service and Outreach.

Report from the SU Senate

Dr. Seneca

Postponed no new business

Report from SUNY Senate

Prof. Shannon

Mission Review II, budget allocation might be increased in terms of performance as a result of mission review.

Candice DeRussy has resigned from the Standards of Higher Education Committee.

She has been replaced by Father Cremmins (president at St. Johns) who has an extensive background in education. This should suggest an improving relationship between SUNY Senate and the Board of Trustees. Patty Francis (formerly of SUNY Cortland, and a consultant to ESF during preparation of our assessment plan) has replaced Assistant Provost Don Steven and should help improve the campus based assessment system.

Report from USA

Liz Reif

Open forum with Pres Murphy was last week; 35 students attended. Mid semester evaluations in classes were a student topic. Mid semester reviews facilitate student respect. Liz Reif requested feedback from faculty on the topic. S. Shannon indicated that the topic was discussed at the faculty retreat and there was general support for the idea. Mid semester evaluations can help facilitate real-time changes to courses that will help students at the immediate time.

Response from faculty: Some courses do not “come together” until the mid semester and mid semester evaluations might not be accurate. Question was raised: are formal evaluations necessary or should instructor simply create a mechanism for students to provide feedback. Engineering uses formal instruments at mid-semester. Students report differently at mid and end of semester; proposed to keep both. Comment was made that there already are mechanisms to provide during-semester feedback. Suggestion to create a web-based feedback system that allowed students to provide nameless e-mail to instructors. Liz stated that students might only use a web-based system in anger and not as a tool to praise instructors.

NEW! - Discussion Item: “ETD’s”—no, not a virus—these are “Electronic Theses and Dissertations.” What are they, what are their pros & cons for ESF faculty & students, and how should faculty be dealing with them?

Betsy Elkins and Marla Bennett presenting details about how an electronic system would function.

Why publishing on the web is a good thing:

Thesis or dissertation in this format would be “born digitally.” This is a logical shift for library services. The shift to electronic is what the library customers want. Work in the library would be reduced and streamlined, less shelf space necessary, time between completion or defense and publication is short, electronic items are less susceptible to damage, easier to access through databases. Students are now preparing documents in formats that are amenable to electronic cataloging. Most important component is that works will be more visible to the larger community.

Questions and concerns from faculty:

1. Question concerning cumbersome nature of working with an electronic document. It is easier to work with a paper copy to finger through.
2. Is there an interlibrary loan version? Collectively it will lead to more printing because people will print individual documents. Paper copies can be ordered at a fee. However, interlibrary loan is free.
 - a. Students do not like to go to shelf and take something down. The next generation will go electronic regardless of our decision today.
3. Comment made that you MUST have a printed copy on the shelf. Without printed copy students will not use it.
4. One thing that has to be preserved is the pride of walking into your office with a “book” that they wrote. Should not lose the vanity aspect of having a bound copy.
 - a. Response is that you can order hard or soft copies of document
5. Caution should be exercised to make sure that electronic version is not different than hard copy. For example, if electronic version contains video a hard copy cannot.
6. How will the format be preserved? Hard formats and software changed and in the future documents may be more un-usable.
 - a. The organization managing the files are responsible for maintaining the files will update files as necessary.
7. What about copyright problems and laws?
 - a. A few institutions are working on that now
8. Is there a problem with considering the electronic version as a prior publication and not being able to publish out of your thesis
9. A private company will hold the files. What if they go out of business?
 - a. We will have an electronic version and the Library of Congress will have a copy.
10. ESF should have a CD or hard copy on the shelf so the private company is not the only holder of the document.

New Business

Rick Smardon introduced Sharon Moran. She will be teaching Public Policy courses in ES

Old Business

none

Adjourn at 4:26