

# SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry

## Faculty Governance

Meeting of the College Faculty

26 February 2004

Alumni Lounge

**Faculty attending:** Anagnost, S. E.\* , Bennett M.A., Bevilacqua, E.\* , Black, P.E.\* , Boyer, G. L.\* , Cabasso, I.\* , Daley, D. J.\* , Davis, C. J.\* , Elkins, E. A.\* , Ellis, J. C.\* , Floyd, D.W.\* , Francis, R. C.\* , Germain, R. H.\* , Hall, C. A.\* , Hawks, R. S.\* , Heffernan J., Jacobs, R., Kuehn, D. M.\* , Maynard, C. A.\* , Norton, R. A.\* , Nowak, C. A.\* , Palmer, J. F.\* , Raynal D., Schulz, K. L.\* , Schuster, R. M. Jr.\* , Smardon, R. C.\* , Smith, J. L., Smith, L. A.\* , Tiss, K. J., Tully W., Turner, J. S.\* , Wagner, J. E.\* , Webb, C. S., Weir, A.\* , Whales, R., Yanai, R.D\*

\* indicates voting status

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Scott Turner.

The **minutes** posted for the meeting of 22 January were amended by the President to more accurately reflect his report. The revised minutes were approved.

Scott thanked Ruth Yanai and Betsey Elkins for chairing and taking minutes at last month's meeting, when he couldn't be here.

**Kudos:** (Scott Turner): Charlie Hall has returned from sabbatical having finished a new book entitled *Making Development Work: A New Role for Science*, to be published by University of New Mexico Press.

### Information items from the floor:

- Proposals are due 1 April for *Conversations in the Disciplines*, a program of financial support for intercampus scholarly conferences. Details can be found at the SUNY Chancellor's website: [www.sysadm.suny.edu/provost/facultyawards.htm](http://www.sysadm.suny.edu/provost/facultyawards.htm)
- The Symposium on Teaching and Learning will be Friday March 5; registration is still open. The keynote speaker will be David Campbell, Program Director for Education and Human Resources at NSF: "Environmental Education's role in preparing students for a complex, interdisciplinary world."
- Marla Bennett reported that we sent 18 nominations to the Sussman Foundation. It helped a lot that the students attended an information session this year. We have a 90% success rate. Information about EPA summer internships are available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ee/epa/eed.nsf/Webpages/SummerInternships.html>
- Jim Heffernan reminded us that nominations for Chancellor's Awards for students are due on Monday.

### Update on Nominations for Chancellors Awards: Scott Turner

Allan Drew, Ruth Yanai, Ross Jacobs, Angie Eddy, and Liz Reif served on the committee that solicited and selected nominations for the Distinguished Professorships and Chancellor's Awards. We can't tell you who was nominated!

### Faculty Governance Elections: Scott Turner

Nominations are open for Executive Chair, Chair of the Committee on Public Service & Outreach, one SU Senator, and three Members-at-large. Please make nominations; the ballot will be finalized at our next faculty meeting. Individuals will be appointed from the following departments: Landscape Architecture, Forest Engineering, Environmental Studies, Forestry, and Chemistry.

**Committee on Instruction:** Craig Davis

- Curriculum & Course Proposals

- Drop courses:

- EFB 510 Health and Our Chemical Environment

- Discussion:* This course is being dropped and replaced by a shared-resource course, EFB 400/600.

- The motion was passed.

- New courses:

- EFB 215 Interpreting Science Through Art. (*Note: Proposed to meet GenEd requirement for Art*)

- EFB 304 Natural History Museum Techniques

- EFB 345 Forest Health

- EFB 400 Toxic Health Hazards

- EFB 404 Natural History Museums and Modern Science

- EFB 405 Literature of Natural History

- EFB 406 Great Naturalist Seminar

- EFB 419 Problem-solving in Conservation Biology

- EFB 423 Marine Ecology

- EFB 482 Ornithology

- EFB 483 Mammal Diversity

- EFB 600 Toxic Health Hazards

- EFB 611 Topics in Environmental Toxicology

- EFB 623 Marine Ecology

- The motion was passed after clarifying the relationship of the shared-resource courses.

- Revision of Undergraduate Minor (for SU students): Minor in Construction Management. The motion was passed without discussion.

- New degree programs:

- PSE is proposed two degree programs, a B.S. in Paper Science and a B.S. in Paper Engineering. These replace the Science Option and Engineering Option in the old B.S. in Paper Science & Engineering.

- The motion was passed without discussion.

- Graduate Student Policies:

- Proposal for transfer of non-degree ESF coursework to degree programs

- Students sometimes take a lot of courses before matriculating. This can result in an incoherent set of courses, since a major professor and steering committee have not been involved. The proposal adds a line to the program of study (Form 3B): "Non-degree ESF coursework credits transferred (may not exceed 9 credits)."

- Discussion:* Would this policy also be added to the catalog?

- Yes.

- Does this policy suggest that 9 credits can be transferred even if they don't contribute to the plan of study?

- No, the committee has to approve all the courses on Form 3B.

- Jim Palmer:* If the problem is advising, then the only courses that transfer should be those that appear on the 3B.

*Ruth Yanai:* The purpose of the policy is to warn non-matriculated students that they shouldn't think they are building credits toward a graduate degree.

*Dudley Raynal:* All items of this sort are petitionable.

*Jim Palmer:* How would a student know that? We're not allowed to petition to transfer more credits from other institutions.

*Ken Tiss* has been working with MPS students who are not able to enroll on a continuous basis, who then petition to transfer the credits when they matriculate. The next proposal relates to this problem.

*Jim Palmer* proposed an amendment: Non-degree ESF coursework credits transferred (may not exceed 9 credits without petition to the Faculty)

*Marla Bennett:* We don't want to say "without petition to the Faculty" in every place where petitions are allowed.

*Jim Palmer:* I proposed to use this language on the Form 3B.

*Chuck Maynard* seconded the proposal.

We continued to discuss whether this language should appear in the catalog as well as the Form 3B.

*Marla Bennett* read to us the section on petitions in the catalog, which should suffice. This language should help clarify the Form 3B.

The amendment passed unopposed.

The amended motion passed unopposed.

- Proposal for Part-time Graduate Study
  - Potential students will apply for part-time study through the Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies;
  - Part-time programs will be available ONLY for professional degrees offered at ESF: MPS, MLA and MF [and/or only by programs and degree levels in areas of study as approved by Faculties]. Part-time study will NOT be available for MS or PhD degrees;
  - Part-time students will matriculate and register through the same process that other students complete (not via Continuing Education);
  - During any semester, students who enroll in part-time programs may register for the equivalent of full-time study;
  - Part-time students will be held to the policy for continuous registration;
  - Upon completion of 12 credit hours, part-time students will request assignment of a steering committee, which will consist of the major professor and one other person. The steering committee will meet and agree upon a program of study (3B) and specify the delimitation date according to the needs of the part-time student in collaboration and agreement of the steering committee.

*Discussion:*

*Ken Tiss:* The requirement for continuous registration will be difficult for some individuals.

*Dudley Raynal:* There is a population of students who will benefit from this change; some will not, and will remain non-matriculated.

*Peter Black:* The old rule was that one year of full-time residence was required. How is this an improvement?

*Craig Davis:* The part-time option applies only to the MPS, MLA and MF degrees.

*Dudley Raynal:* The idea is to reach out to professionals who might want to complete a degree program at a slower pace than normal.

*Leonard Smith:* Why not allow them to skip semesters?

*Elen Deming:* This option will be important to LA students.

*Jim Palmer:* Does this place a new restriction on the other degree programs? Currently, we allow MS and PhD students to register for 1 credit to remain enrolled.

*Marla Bennett:* We allow PhD students to be full-time with 1 credit. An MS student can be full-time with 1 credit in their final semester.

The proposal is to add a new option, not to change the rules for MS and PhD students.

The proposal was sent back to the committee for further discussion and revision.

**Committee on Research:** Chris Nowak

- We are going to have to become more aware of U.S. Export Controls. We might find that we can't take certain equipment or software overseas. Ed White and Don Artz are preparing a website for our information. Incoming students are also coming under scrutiny. The penalties are \$1 million in fines and 10 years in prison.
- Spotlight on Research update: Titles are due on March 1; abstracts are due March 21st. The symposium will be April 13 in Moon Library, with improved arrangements and an outreach component.
- The committee conducted a faculty survey on incentives and impediments to research, to help increase secured and expended research dollars. The report has been completed and will be delivered by e-mail. The response rate was 42 (34%, normal for survey research but disappointing). The results show that faculty are willing to increase their research funding, and provided action items for the College to assist them. The main themes are over-commitment in other areas, lack of support for our activities, and individual problems. The committee members (T. Amidon, S. Anagnost, S. Chatterjee, D. Johnson, C. Nowak, and A. Weir), reviewers, and faculty respondents deserve our appreciation.

**Committee on Public Service & Outreach:** Rene Germain

- The ESF Environmental Challenge Science Fair and Career Exploration Day will be Tuesday, March 9, 8:30-2:00 in Marshall Hall Lounge. Faculty judges are needed from 9:30am - 11:30am. Contact Rick Beal at 470-6817. For more information: [www.esf.edu/eo/k12/sciencefair](http://www.esf.edu/eo/k12/sciencefair)
- The committee has been working to expand the Environmental Information Series on the web site. The criteria for new postings will be available on the web (Descriptive, user-friendly, Google-friendly title; Key Words to facilitate search engines; Length: 500 - 1000 words; Content: overview of subject matter for lay audience; Photos/graphics required; Recommended readings; Credits (prepared by . . .)) Submit your contributions to News & Pubs, which will work with authors and Paul Otteson to put your contribution on the web. Each publication in the Environmental Information Series will be accompanied by a photo and biography of the primary author and a link to your web page. Betsy Elkins offered to link them through the library catalog as well, which means they will come up in a Summit search.
- The Spotlight on Student Research and Outreach: We will ask each faculty chair to select a poster for extended viewing in Bray Rotunda. This will be nice for outreach to prospective students. The committee will also go through all the posters to solicit subjects for the Environmental Information Series.

**President's report:** Neil Murphy

- Chancellor Bob King will be here at 1 p.m. tomorrow afternoon to recognize a significant gift to the College from Kimberly-Clark involving 13 patents and money to fund research to enhance the value of those patents.
- Because of the late hour, I will save details of the Mid-Year Budget Review for the March meeting. We are on target or maybe even a little ahead of budget. We went ahead with hiring five new faculty members to begin to replace those that have retired and have initiated a search for Provost.
- We expect that the budget for Fiscal Year 04-05 will be the same as this year, which is good news when compared to the originally projected \$11 billion shortfall in state revenues.
- The news is good on the proposed Five Year Capital Plan, which I will also present to you in more detail at the March meeting.
- Finally, there is a new round of Mission Review from SUNY, following the one that was completed in summer of 2000. The content corresponds pretty well to our ESF strategic plan. We will ask for an extension to the June 30th due date because it doesn't allow for sufficient staff and faculty input.
- I am impressed with the recent changes to the curriculum, congratulations on your vision and hard work.

**Old business:** None

**New business:**

*Jim Palmer:* Am I the only one who hasn't had sufficient time to review COI proposals because we don't provide access off campus? (Scott Turner agrees.) Why can we submit grades from off campus but not review proposals, which seem to have less need to be secure?

*Israel Cabasso:* Most people don't try to read the proposals.

*Marla Bennett:* I can't address why we can't make them available off campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Yanai