

December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## **College of Forestry Research Support Faculty Committee meeting**

Present: Scott Kolpak, Heather Roberts, Matt Konkler, Becky Fasth

Agenda:

- Discuss lab safety/flooding meeting with Roger Admiral
- Review revisions to college space policy
- Discuss FES DH's request for a RSF representative for departmental advisory committee
- Discuss October all-faculty meeting
- Continue preparation for Feb. 6 FEC presentation
- Schedule next committee meeting

### **Discuss lab safety/flooding meeting with Roger Admiral**

Gabriela, Matt and Becky met with Roger Admiral to discuss safety concerns and issues with repeated flooding in the Richardson labs. Roger outlined the proper order of procedures following a lab flooding event, including the roles of risk management, custodial services and Belfor. Matt will write up the order of operations and then we will address adding contingency plans to address what to do when people don't show up when they are supposed to.

We learned that we should expect more flooding events until the roof of Richardson is replaced. Apparently it is up to the University to decide when to replace the roof and it is low on their priority list. There are a number of factors (flat roof, backed up downspouts, etc.) that cause flooding to occur. Given that we expect future floods, the RSF committee is trying to find ways to minimize the damage that occurs to our equipment and samples in order to protect our research programs. We are proposing:

- A CoF-wide distribution list for sending emails to all lab managers/workers, facilities services, Roger Admiral and others who should be notified in the event of a lab flooding.
- Some cleanup equipment should be provided for RSF to begin their own cleanup if custodial does not come quickly enough. Since the labs don't have floor drains and RSF don't have access to the custodial closets, it is currently very difficult for us to clean up a flooded lab so we can get back to work.
- Identify labs that get flooded the most and shield workspaces and equipment with plastic to protect them from damage.
- Establish a line of communication with Belfor for the safety of Belfor employees and to protect lab equipment and samples from further damage during the cleanup process.

We will also follow up about the timeline and likelihood of replacing the roof on Richardson, and suggest intermediate actions to reduce flooding in the meantime (e.g. wrap unwrapped pipes). If you have questions or input regarding lab flooding, please contact us at [CoFRSFCommittee@oregonstate.edu](mailto:CoFRSFCommittee@oregonstate.edu).

### **Review revisions to college space policy**

The last version of the college space policy did not include FRAs and RAs in the priority ranking due to an oversight. The RSF committee argued that FRAs and RAs should be placed on equal footing with Professional faculty. In response to feedback from the RSF committee and others, the priority ranking of

faculty for single-occupancy offices was changed to specify that “tenured/tenure-track faculty and instructors with a minimum of 0.75 FTE appointment in the college will be given priority in single occupancy assignments”. Priority will be given to all other faculty and staff based primarily on need rather than rank.

#### **Discuss FES DH’s request for a RSF representative for departmental advisory committee**

Troy is looking for a RSF representative for her FES advisory committee. Scott Kolpak expressed interest in serving on the committee so we nominated him for the role.

#### **Discuss October all-faculty meeting**

This meeting was primarily a discussion on how to conduct interdisciplinary research in support of the four research themes (resilient ecosystems, intensively managed forests, healthy people and communities, competitive and innovative products) of the Institute for Working Forest Landscapes.

<http://www.forestry.oregonstate.edu/research/institute-working-forest-landscapes-0>

- The role of the board will be identifying research questions and guiding the institute rather than approving specific projects.
- Emphasis will be on research projects that focus on the intersection between two or more themes.
- The institute will need to deliver useful and relevant information to secure continued funding.
- There’s a need to balance fundamental and applied research.
- They’re looking at mechanisms to connect faculty with board members, possibly holding workshops on intersections between specific themes (e.g. healthy communities and resilient ecosystems).
- They’re trying to create an efficient proposal system so that faculty members don’t spend a lot of time on proposals that won’t get approved.

Suggestions from the group:

- Need for more connections between researchers within the college – could create a list of areas of expertise and interest for all faculty.
- Take time to build interdisciplinary research teams – how the teams come together is key.
- Need regular reflection on the process for continuous improvement over time.

#### **Continue preparation for Feb. 6 FEC presentation**

Heather will continue to craft the message for the FEC presentation on RSF roles and responsibilities, with emphasis on initiating a discussion on how RSF will fit into the new Institute for Working Forest Landscapes. We will work together at the next RSF committee meeting to refine the message.

#### **Schedule next committee meeting**

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 11am