

September 22nd, 2014

College of Forestry Research Support Faculty Committee meeting

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

Agenda

- Finalize design of a survey on RSF responsibilities to assist the committee with accomplishing several initiatives to improve working conditions and career advancement for RSF

Lab issues (repeated flooding/noise)

Although not on the agenda, we spent a good portion of the meeting discussing the fact that many labs have experienced frequent flooding (5 times in one year for one lab). This flooding has not only destroyed equipment but also interferes with RSFs' abilities to complete their jobs when equipment is not replaced. It also adds stress to RSF who have to spend time cleaning up the labs instead of conducting research. We decided it was an important enough issue for us to bring up to administrators to make sure they understand the full scope of how this interferes with the college's ability to successfully carry out research.

Another issue that came up was the excessive noise from the fume hoods in the labs. The noise is so distracting that some people have left their positions since they couldn't handle the noise. We will follow up on this issue as well to see if there are ways to reduce the noise.

Finalize survey design

We discussed how to word the questions on the survey to obtain the information we need to accomplish several objectives including; presenting RSF responsibilities to FEC, propose a college-wide fund to help support professional development of RSF, and assist with revamping our orientation and mentoring programs. We recognized the difficulties involved with surveying such a diverse population.