

**UF Water Institute FAC Meeting
02-28-2017
Summary, Decisions and Action Items**

Present: Wendy Graham, Carol Lippincott, Lisette Staal, Sandra Russo, David Kaplan, Kati Migliaccio, Mary Jane Angelo, Tatiana Borisova, Peter Frederick, Tom Frazer, Jamie Gillooly, Matt Cohen, Jon Martin

Not Present: Liz Screaton, Arnaldo Valle-Levinson, Michael Dukes, Tom Waltzek, Nancy Denslow

Revisions to WI Faculty Fellow Guidelines

The FAC discussed the proposed revisions to the WI Faculty Fellow Guidelines and was in favor of including separate awards for early-career and later-career and generally in favor of one WI award per year, although some suggested having both an early-career and late-career award each year. The FAC recommended revision to explicitly include UF faculty who are not tenure-accruing, i.e. Eligible faculty for early-career award should be those with rank of assistant professor or equivalent path. Eligible faculty for later-career award should be those with rank of associate or full professor or equivalent path. Also discussed reinserting Faculty Fellow commitment to leading, rather than just participating in, at least one interdisciplinary Water Institute proposal during their 3-year tenure.

The FAC agreed it is advantageous to hold a joint Faculty Fellow award ceremony with FCI and suggested WI contact FCI on proposed revisions and adjust as needed based on their response.

Action Items: Jon Martin will talk with Ellen Martin, Interim FCI Director about the proposed changes and the best way to get FCI input.

Post-Meeting update: Ellen Martin suggested sharing the proposed changes with Jim Jones and Carolyn Cox. This has been done and the FCI will discuss changes at their April 7 FAC meeting. Carol will attend the FCI FAC meeting. **A final version, taking into account FCI input, will be emailed to the WI FAC after April 7th for approval . The goal is to get the announcement out before the end of April .**

Strategic Plan Implementation Retreat

The Strategic Plan Implementation Retreat, an idea brought up at the last FAC meeting was discussed. In clarifying a focus for the retreat, the question of “who is the audience” was raised. Two different groups of Water Institute “stakeholders” were mentioned as key stakeholders/clients of the Water Institute, i.e 1) external actors, i.e. private industry, water supply utilities, NGOs, government agencies etc. with potential regional, national and global reach, and 2) UF Faculty interested in water.

The FAC agreed that WI should first focus on and convene UF faculty with water-related research interests, especially new faculty, to help faculty meet one another and form networks around research topics and to help develop agendas for interdisciplinary proposals. Some suggestions for meeting topics and activities included:

- Linking people in groups to identify shared research interests and potential partners
- Identifying “big issues” of the day and leadership opportunities
- Encouraging interactions with people from funding agencies
- Providing potential funding information and support to help build proposals

A follow-on effort could help UF faculty to identify and convene key outside stakeholders, like industry, agencies, non-profits etc, who might form partnerships with UF faculty to provide research funding.

Action Items: WI will look at obligations in the coming year to determine with these proposed activities should occur

Post-Meeting Follow-up: Due to the launching of the USDA-NIFA project and planning for the 2018 Symposium planning and executing a formal faculty collaboration workshop is not feasible in the Fall semester. **We will plan to hold a formal faculty collaboration workshop in the Spring 2018 semester, after the Symposium. In the meantime the WI will encourage informal ways of linking faculty in unstructured interactions to identify shared research interests and potential partners, and will reach out to department chairs to identify new faculty who should be invited to join the WI and participate in these activities.**

2018 Biennial Symposium

Symposium topic ideas:

- Technological innovations
- Groundwater management, water allocations, water scarcity
- Agricultural and Environmental linkages - Food, energy, water
- Focus on Research, Planning and Management of Karst Systems –Could include research and management issues associated NNC, MFL, Saltwater Intrusion, sea level rise, surface groundwater etc., Possible sessions on developing a karst critical zone observatory. Karst aquifers in Florida include: The [Floridan aquifer system](#), and the [Biscayne aquifer](#). Other important karst aquifers are the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, and the Ozark Plateaus aquifer system in Missouri.

FAC Elections:

FAC elections to replace the 5 members rotating off the committee must happen by the end of May. After the FAC elections, the FAC must elect a Chair-Elect.

Action Item: Lisette Staal will work with Matt Cohen on the nomination and election process for replacing 5 people rotating off of the FAC in June.

Other items mentioned, but not discussed in depth:

- CUAHSI (Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science) is considering facilitating a Virtual University concept to share water-related courses across universities. The Water Institute could be the UF platform/organizer for this program.
- Water Institute should consider “updating” look of the website and social media presence.