

UF Water Institute
Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Nov 18, 2009, Wednesday, 11:45-1:15
307 Weil Hall

Attended by Berg, Brenner, Haman, Hamann, Frazer, Heaney, Jawitz, Jones, Martin, McCarty, Schuur, Sheng, Graham, McKee, Staal

Discussion items:

1. Demo of new WI research web page and request for info – Suggestion - Consider a way to add unfunded projects.
2. Water Institute Fellows proposal (attached) - Wendy introduced the idea of using program initiative funds (PIF) to support post-doctoral fellows. Fellows will build bridges between faculty, write new proposals, , potential to continue beyond two years as soft funded faculty. Suggestions for For WI Fellows program included: formal mentoring process, requiring matching funds from hosts, Recruitment - Preference for getting cross-cutting, interdisciplinary, advertise in EOS, Science, Chronical, List Servs, IGERT list. Consider potential to meld this with IGERT institutionalization idea.

Proposal to pursue Dean/VP support to continue the IGERT Water, Wetlands, and Watersheds program through the Water Institute (Mark Brown) - NSF wants to see the institutionalization of IGERT programs. Mark and Sandra approached Wendy regarding the potential to house in WI and WI would coordinate program. Several things mentioned that are ongoing and future-- undergraduate course (Water Watersheds team taught by IGERT students), Seminar, Graduate Courses- travel to everglades, Costa Rica. Concept is to carve out an initiative and approach Deans to put up Alumni Fellowships for the proposal forming a cohort of 6 students from 3 colleges. The focus should build on the WI strengths. Discussed what support it currently takes, including one program manager (Carol) and an assistant. Mark mentioned that they are willing to house the students in the Phelps lab – the current location. Action: agreed to draft proposal and approach the deans in the 3 Colleges. General consensus was the PIF funds might be put to better use supporting this graduate fellowship program, rather than post-doc program described above, assuming Deans support the graduate fellowship program.