

UF Water Institute – FAC meeting - NOTES
April 18, 2012 11:30 – 1:00
365 Weil Hall

Meeting Participants: FAC members - Jon Martin, Tom Frazer, Martha Monroe, Mike Annable, Kathryn Frank, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Mike Binford, Matt Cohen, Tatiana Borisova, (Wendy Graham and Lisette Staal, Water Institute)

FAC members not present: Ramesh Reddy, Mary Jane Angelo, Christine Overdevest, Andy Kane, Jane Southworth

Notes

1) Strategic Planning Update

Discussion:

Wendy Graham provided an update of the progress on the strategic planning process, including results of a meeting with and a follow-up survey of Departmental Chairs. Distributed a comparison of the results of the survey between the FAC and the Departmental Chairs (*see Appendix A*). Listed below are the top three averaged ranks (FAC and Departmental Chairs combined) priorities:

1. Build upon past successes (symposium, seminar series, moderate-sized interdisciplinary research grants, funded service projects for state agencies, maintenance/enhancement of web-accessible faculty, awards and publication databases)
2. Continue to form and nurture interdisciplinary teams with diverse faculty leadership and representation to go after large (multimillion) externally funded programs, partnering with other Centers and Institutes (e.g. EPI, FCI, LATAM, PIE, Center for Wetlands, WRRC) where appropriate.
3. Build and strengthen the Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program by obtaining continuing commitment from UF Deans and supplemental/replacement funding from private donors

Martha Monroe commented on the importance of incorporating extension into these priorities and being involved as the Extension program formulating it's priorities and activities. There is a special group focusing on Water.

Kathryn Frank suggested that reaching out to Chairs in the School of Design,..... may be helpful and that they may be interested.

Wendy Graham was invited to visit the Environmental Horticulture Department and will be following up on that in the next couple of weeks.

Actions: WI will send a survey to all Affiliated Faculty as next step in the strategic planning process. In Fall, a general retreat will be planned and scheduled.

2) FAC elections (committee nominations and Chair-Elect)

Discussion:

It is time to begin the nomination and election process. Terms of the following FAC members will end in May: Michael Annable, Tatiana Borisova, Ralael Munoz-Carpena, Christine Overdevest, Ramesh Reddy.

Dr. Mike Annable was unanimously approved by the FAC as the current Chair Elect. He will assume the role of Chair from Jon Martin in May 2012, and will serve a 3 year term (appointed)

Need to fill 4 elected positions (3 year terms) - Suggestions were solicited from FAC for potential nominees to target. The following faculty were suggested as potential targeted nominees: Damian Adams, Ray Huffaker, Judy Johnson, Mike Dukes, Mark Clark, Mark Bressner, Rick Steppe, Stephn Perz, Brian Mayer, Brian Silleman, Craig Osenburg, Katrina Schwartz, Paul Monahan, Tracy Irani, Les Theile, Treavor Boyer, Steve Holland, Bridge Thapa, Paul Chadik, John Sansalone, Carrie Adams.

ACTIONS - Lisette will work with Jon Martin and Wendy to implement nomination and election process.

3) Review of 2013 Water Institute Graduate Fellows RFP

A draft of the RFP was provided to FAC members prior to and during the meeting (*see Appendix B*). FAC Suggestions included:

- May be helpful to clarify what is meant by “Interdisciplinary” in the context of this program. (Mike Binford)
- Noted the importance of “linking science to the users of science... link science to practice.” (Kathryn Frank)
- Suggested looking back to review comments of last proposals to see if there are comments that can inform the RFP at all. (Martha Monroe)
- Noted that the RFP should give basic information on how evaluation is incorporated (not just in the program description). Change the RFP to make a more general comments such as --- ‘what is your plan to incorporate a formative evaluation’ in addition to what is already being done? (Martha Monroe)
- It would be helpful to pitch the WIGF potential benefits to the College of Design , Construction and Planning – suggested talking to Chris Silver and other Deans about this opportunity (Kathryn Frank)

Timeline:

- Announce RFP – now and repeat in August
- Letter of Intent – (due a week after classes start) – title, team, theme concept note
- Schedule informational meeting for late August (2nd week of classes)
- Due = October 1st, 2012
- Announce winner = November 1, 2012

**APPENDIX A –
UF WATER INSTITUTE FAC meeting – April 18, 2011- handout**

8. Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017

Future Priorities	FAC Ranking¹	Chairs/ Directors Ranking²
Build upon past successes (symposium, seminar series, moderate-sized interdisciplinary research grants, funded service projects for state agencies, maintenance/enhancement of web-accessible faculty, awards and publication databases)	2.636364	2.63
Continue to form and nurture interdisciplinary teams with diverse faculty leadership and representation to go after large (multimillion) externally funded programs, partnering with other Centers and Institutes (e.g. EPI, FCI, LATAM, PIE, Center for Wetlands, WRRC) where appropriate.	2.636364	3
Build and strengthen the Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program by obtaining continuing commitment from UF Deans and supplemental/replacement funding from private donors	2.272727	2.5
Partner with departments to establish state and/or endowment support for hiring of interdisciplinary water faculty	2.181818	2.25
Develop a charter for and form an External Advisory Board	3	2.13
Develop a strategy for Water Institute promotion, marketing and public relations	2.090909	2.57
Build externally funded stakeholder engagement/education programs within the EPA Center for Watershed Excellence in partnership with IFAS Extension and the Center for Public Issues Education	1.909091	1.88
Partner with industry (i.e. utilities, consulting firms) state and local governmental agencies and private donors to establish an externally funded Undergraduate Water Scholar/Internship Program	1.727273	1.75

¹ Average ranking assigned by Faculty Advisory Committee (3high importance, 1 low importance)

¹ Average ranking assigned by Chairs and Directors (3high importance, 1 low importance)

APPENDIX B

UF WATER INSTITUTE FAC meeting – April 18, 2011- handout

Request for Proposals 2013 Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program

The UF Water Institute is soliciting proposals for the 2013 **Water Institute Graduate Fellows (WIGF) Program** that will fund the second interdisciplinary faculty-graduate fellow team to conduct integrative research in an emerging area of water science, broadly interpreted to include the social, natural, and engineering sciences. For a more complete description of the goals, structure, and evaluation of the WIGF program see Appendix A.

The Deans of the UF Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Director of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment have committed funding for Graduate Research Fellowships in support of this program. This funding will provide a \$25,000 per year stipend plus tuition waiver for 4 years to biennial cohorts of 4-5 Ph. D. students. The Water Institute will leverage this investment by facilitating integrative activities to support their development into a cohesive interdisciplinary cadre of professional researchers. The Water Institute will provide a Research Coordinator for group facilitation; assistance with design, funding, execution and evaluation of integrative activities; and proposal-writing assistance for development of external funding for the project.

Funding from other Colleges/Departments affiliated with the Water Institute (i.e. School of Natural Resources and the Environment and Design Construction and Planning) through the provision of additional Graduate Research Fellowships to the cohort may be provided on a case by case basis.

Proposal requirements:

Diverse group of faculty: Proposals must involve a diverse group of at least 4 Water Institute affiliated faculty members: up to two from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, up to two from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and up to one from the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences. Participation of additional faculty members from other Colleges/Departments affiliated with the Water Institute is encouraged. No faculty member that is currently participating in the 2011 WIGF cohort may participate in a proposed 2013 cohort.

Comprehensive interdisciplinary theme: Proposals must describe a comprehensive interdisciplinary theme in an emerging area of water science appropriate for doctoral-level research that will serve as the foundation for graduate fellow activities. The proposal should describe the major individual research efforts for each of the graduate fellows and how they would be integrated to form the thematic basis for the interdisciplinary project. The research efforts should be described in sufficient detail for reviewers to assess their disciplinary scientific merit and relevance to the interdisciplinary project theme. The proposal should describe existing funding available to support the proposed research, and/or specific plans to obtain external funding for research expenses.

Strong collaborative interactions: In addition to describing individual and collaborative research within the proposed theme, the proposal must describe proposed activities that will enhance the faculty-graduate fellow cohort's integration and help them develop skills to work in a collaborative interdisciplinary environment. These activities should be integrated with the research activities and be designed to enhance trans-disciplinary competencies i.e. foster the ability to work in diverse teams; create a system of communication and exchange that keeps cohort engaged; provide instruction in ethics and the responsible conduct of research; and/or provide training in communication of the substance and importance of research to disciplinary experts, interdisciplinary collaborators, and lay audiences. Examples of potential integrative group activities include summer field/travel experiences; development/team teaching of undergraduate courses; group projects with external stakeholders/agencies; participation in training programs focused on skill building in interdisciplinary teamwork, leadership, communication and information sharing; and organization and participation in interdisciplinary seminar series (i.e. Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar series) and conferences (i.e. Biennial Water Institute Symposium).

Detailed Submission Guidelines:

1. Letters of intent, containing PI name, project title and faculty team must be submitted to the Water Institute (wgraham@ufl.edu) by date??.
2. Attendance at an information meeting on date?? is strongly recommended for those who have submitted letters of intent.
3. Proposals must be submitted electronically to the Water Institute (wgraham@ufl.edu) by date ?? and should consist of the following materials:
 - Cover Page with project title, faculty team, and their affiliations. Signed by the PI and Co-PIs.
 - Interdisciplinary Research Theme (3- 6 pages) including description integrative interdisciplinary theme; background data and information to support theme; disciplinary and collaborative research questions and methods; and existing and potential sources of external funding for proposed research.
 - Proposed Integrative Activities (2-3 pages) including a description of overall team-building approach, philosophy and previous experience working in interdisciplinary teams; and a detailed description of the suite of integrative activities, with individual goals, timeline, budget, and proposed involvement of Water Institute staff for each.
 - Project evaluation: Description of evaluation plans, including engagement in external evaluation (see Evaluation in Appendix A)
 - Project Timeline (1 page) including timeline for student recruitment and selection, group proposal development, research and integrative activities, as well as the role and contribution of each member of the faculty team.
 - References
 - Brief (maximum of 2 pages) Curriculum Vitae for the Principal Investigator and each of the Co-PIs and a list of their currently funded research with percent time commitment to each funded project.
 - Statement of Departmental Support for proposal and any Department-specific teaching requirements that may required of Graduate Fellows.

Proposals must be emailed to the Water Institute in ms word or pdf format. Documents should be single spaced with font size no smaller than 12 point.

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel consisting of members of the WI Faculty Advisory Committee, members of the 2011 WIGF faculty cohort, and other UF and external faculty members with experience in interdisciplinary graduate education using the criteria outlined in Appendix B. Every effort will be made to notify Principal Investigators of their award status by **date??**.

QUESTIONS

Contact: Wendy Graham (wgraham@ufl.edu). Phone: 352-392-5893

Appendix A: 2013 Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program Description

An important component of the Water Institute's Strategic plan is to recruit and train excellent students to pursue careers in water-related science, engineering, policy, planning, and management, with an interdisciplinary focus. The Water Institute Graduate Fellows (WIGF) program is intended to meet the challenges of educating Ph.D. scientists and engineers, with both interdisciplinary backgrounds and deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, who will pursue water-related careers in research and education. The program will support institutionalization of the Ph.D. student cohort model developed in the UF Adaptive Management of Water Wetlands and Watersheds IGERT program, and will further the development of a supportive environment for integrative research, training, and education in water-related sciences and engineering at UF.

The UF Water Institute, with support from the Colleges of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Director of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment established an innovative education and research initiative **The Water Institute Graduate Fellows (WIGF) Program**. This program funds interdisciplinary faculty-graduate fellow teams to conduct integrative research in emerging areas of the water sciences and to participate in interdisciplinary graduate education and training activities. The program supports:

- Biennial cohorts of 4-5 Ph. D. students by providing 4-5 Graduate Research Fellowships, \$25,000 per year stipend plus tuition waiver for 4 years.
- Integrative activities to support the team's development into a cohesive interdisciplinary cadre of student and professional researchers

Proposal Review

The WI Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) will oversee the WIGF program. The FAC will solicit, review and select the winning proposal, and in conjunction with the faculty members involved in the proposal, develop graduate student recruiting plans and materials.

Student Recruitment

The Water Institute will advertise the fellowships nationally, seeking top candidates to work with faculty on the selected proposal. A fellow's selection committee composed of the proposal faculty members and members of the FAC will review applicants and make final selections. In selecting applicants, the selection committee will work closely with the proposed faculty advisors and Departments of the Colleges providing the Fellowships to insure that applicants meet departmental, college, and university requirements. Special attention will be given to increasing diversity and members of underrepresented groups in recruitment and selection. For accounting purposes, each fellow will have the departmental home of their major advisor.

Evaluation

The Water Institute is partnering with the Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (PIE Center; www.centerpie.com) for an external evaluation of the WIGF Program and Cohorts. The evaluation specialists are responsible for designing and implementing a mixed-methods monitoring and evaluation framework to track, evaluate, and report on the outputs and outcomes of the WIGF program. The evaluation team at the PIE Center, in close coordination with Water Institute Staff, will work with faculty and students in each cohort to inform a successful program.

Criteria for Evaluating Long-Term Program Success:

The goal of the Water Institute Graduate Fellows program is to produce professionals with a strong holistic understanding of the bio-physical, technological, ecological, social and economic challenges to sustaining water resources. The success of this program will be measured by:

- The quality and diversity of graduate fellows recruited
- Level of faculty/graduate student participation in, and evaluation of usefulness of, interdisciplinary team building activities
- Graduate Fellow research relevance and quality
- Number of external proposals submitted (and funded) by Faculty-Fellow Cohort
- Numbers of peer reviewed publications, white papers, and presentations at professional meetings resulting from the WIGF program
- Professional placement of graduate fellows

QUESTIONS

Contact: Wendy Graham (wgraham@ufl.edu). Phone: 352-392-5893 x 2113

Appendix B
2013 Water Institute Graduate Fellows Program
Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- **Faculty Team:**
 - Diversity of faculty team, roles of individual team members clearly described
 - Faculty experience and expertise appropriate to proposed interdisciplinary research theme and integrative activities
 - Commitment of the participating faculty to the goals of the WIGF program
 - Evidence of Departmental support and clarification of specific departmental requirements.

- **Interdisciplinary Research Theme**
 - Importance of the proposed research to advancing knowledge and understanding of an emerging area of water science
 - Background data and information to support proposed research provided, proposed research appropriate for doctoral-level study
 - Coherence of the interdisciplinary theme as a focus for all program participants and integration of individual research efforts well described.
 - Evidence of creative research fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and outputs

- **Plan for Proposed Integrative Activities**
 - Team building approach, philosophy and experience clearly described and encourages strong collaborative interactions
 - Provides opportunities for the research team to engage in joint efforts to enrich collaborative learning
 - Effectively provides for the development of professional and personal skills, increased ability to work in diverse teams, improved communication skills, and enhanced ethical conduct of research

- **Partnership with the Water Institute**
 - Defines expectations from and contributions to WI
 - Creatively leverages and contributes to WI strategic mission and activities

- **Administrative plan and organizational structure**
 - Assures effective participation by project members
 - Existing and potential sources of external funding strong and clearly described.
 - Timeline for student recruitment, selection, enrollment, etc. well-described.