

**UF Water Institute
Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
307 Weil Hall**

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 11:30 – 1:30

Attendees:

FAC - Dorota Haman, Ramesh Reddy, Jim Jawitz, Rafael Munoz-Carpena, Tom Frazer, Richard Haman, Mark Brenner, Chris McCarty Mike Annable, Tatiana Borisova, Peter Sheng
(*not present: (Jon Martin, Christine Overdevest, Robert Ries, Jim Jones)*)

Water Institute – Wendy Graham, Kathleen McKee, Lisette Staal

1. Introductions

2. Self Study/Review of the Water Institute

Based on the conclusions from the previous FAC meeting, the WI Staff drafted a summary of goals and process, and prepared background information to share with FAC for review and comment . These documents were shared with the FAC by email prior to the meeting (*Appendix A and B*) Discussion:

- Need to clarify between the “educational- awareness” objective and the feedback objective of the review in order to keep the documentation to a minimum. Many felt the drafts were too long (however, several FAC members found the information useful). We need to shorten what goes out, start with the questions, potentially hyperlink the survey to open windows with additional information. Another suggestion was to add a PDF of the summary of information when the survey is sent out. WI will explore both options. Consider incorporating “services provided by the WI” into the contexts of Research for more clarity. Also consider adding info about programs/activities that enhance faculty linkages to external stakeholders as well as programs/activities focused on community building
- Suggested deleting references to Water Institute Faculty Projects in this document since these are not a direct outcome of Water Institute activities
- Suggestions on type of ranking/questions including something like – *knew about and not interested, interested and participated, did not know about but would be interested.....more than awareness, but what it was useful for—example- research, extension, teaching.*
- Discussed potential of sending the survey and tracking the responses through Chris McCarty’s survey group, if this would be more appropriate as this might allow for tracking of responses, non responses.
- Question of whether it needs to go through IRB was raised.

Action: Revise and have the FAC take the survey as a test.

Pending action - FAC Chair (Dorota) and Wendy to invite Win Phillips to meet with the FAC after process is designed to get his input and buy-in. April FAC meeting will probably be too soon.

Update on WI Symposium (Feb 24-26, 2010) Planning

Organizing Committee: UF faculty have been invited to participate in a brainstorming to refine the program title, focus and potential topic areas, as well as to consider potential external committee members. Wendy shared the current status of those who had been invited and accepted (see Appendix C).

FAC made additional suggestions Brainstorming meeting is being scheduled.

Potential Title/Theme: Most of the FAC preferred the following title –
Complex Challenges: Integrated Solutions

Action: WI follow-up with expanding Committee and scheduling brainstorming.

APPENDIX A

University of Florida Water Institute Program Self-Study/Review, Spring 2009

Now in its third year, the Water Institute (WI) is conducting a review/self-study to ascertain which current WI program activities, services, events and products are most valued by our stakeholders (faculty, students, .. others). We hope that by reviewing what we want to accomplish and the programs we have initiated in our first three years you will be able to help us prioritize our activities for our next three years. The information obtained from this study will help provide guidance to the Water Institute Director to enhance the effectiveness of existing programs, and to help identify new activities that are central to the strategic priorities of the Water Institute.

WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH:

The University of Florida (UF) established a campus-wide interdisciplinary Water Institute in May 2006 to bring together talent from throughout the University to address complex water issues through innovative interdisciplinary research, education and outreach programs. The overarching goals are to:

- Improve basic knowledge of the physical, chemical, and biological processes in aquatic systems (rivers, lakes, oceans, estuaries, wetlands, soil and ground waters).
- Enhance understanding of the interactions and interrelationships between human attitudes and activities, and aquatic systems.
- Develop and promote the adoption of improved methodologies for water management and policy (including quantity, quality and ecosystem services) based on a foundation of science, engineering, management and law.

The Water Institute's vision places UF at the forefront of Water Resources Sustainability by developing interdisciplinary and collaborative teams renowned for addressing state, national and global water issues. The Water Institute seeks to transform the way scientists, decision makers, and citizens understand, govern and use water through integrated interdisciplinary analysis of the complex interactions between hydrologic, ecologic and human processes. Through its programs the Water Institute will provide:

- Decision-makers, regulatory agencies, resource managers, industry and non-governmental organizations help in defining, understanding and solving large-scale interdisciplinary water resource problems
- Graduate students, post-doctoral associates, faculty members, and sabbatical fellows an intellectually stimulating environment in which to develop and apply fundamental knowledge to important water resource problems
- Employers a pool of well-trained water-related scientists, engineers, planners, and policy-makers.

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE:

In its initial three years the UF Water Institute has developed several interdisciplinary research and education/outreach programs. A brief synopsis is provided here. For additional detail, please refer to the [WI Annual report](#) available on line. These programs bring together interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students to provide the knowledge base for, and to develop new technology and policy solutions for state, national and global water issues. They provide venues to develop and share new knowledge and partnerships to develop and encourage the implementation of new technology and policy solutions for water issues. These programs include:

EDUCATION/OUTREACH/SERVICE PROGRAMS

Biennial UF Water Institute Symposium: sponsored by Progress Energy - The inaugural [Water Institute Symposium](#) held in Gainesville Feb 27-28, 2008 brought together 450 scientists, engineers, academics, policy makers, water managers, industry representatives, lawyers, students and members of the public to consider the relationships among challenges to water resources sustainability, explore solutions for pressing issues and provide broad based recommendations for research, education, technology and policies to ensure water resources sustainability for Florida and beyond. The Water Institute Symposium will be held every two years.

UF Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series: Sponsored by the Smallwood Foundation - This annual seminar series, initiated in Fall 2007, has brought over 15 high profile [scholars to UF](#) to conduct a general Water Institute seminar of interest to a broad audience; meet with the Water Institute Faculty Advisory Committee to discuss strategic planning and partnering opportunities, and meet with interested Water Institute faculty and students to discuss specific research/education issues.

Interdisciplinary Workshops and Expert Panels - Periodic interdisciplinary workshops and expert panels are hosted to develop partnerships between and among UF Water Institute Faculty, external academics and external stakeholders to identify and prioritize critical water issues requiring interdisciplinary expertise; as well as to provide expertise and support for addressing these issues. To date, these have included more than [10 workshops and panels](#) for a variety of stakeholder groups.

Administration of the Hydrologic Sciences Academic Cluster -The Water Institute provides administrative services to the HSAC. The UF academic cluster for graduate studies in [Hydrologic Sciences \(HSAC\)](#) is a unique interdisciplinary program designed to broaden the skills of science and engineering students who are interested in all aspects of water; i.e., occurrence and quantity, distribution, circulation, quality, and management/policy.

Smallwood Student Intern Program – A gift from the Smallwood Foundation helps support student [interns](#) to work on interdisciplinary projects. As team members, students conduct an individual project that contributes to the overall effort, while learning about the process of interdisciplinary scientific research, collaboration and scholarship.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

UF Water Institute Affiliate faculty and graduate students are involved in research projects in wide-ranging aspects of water-related sciences, engineering, policy and law. The goals of individual research projects include such diverse interests as advancing the understanding of fundamental physical, chemical and biological processes in various aquatic systems, understanding how people organize themselves to use and manage water, and developing solutions to practical problems through engineering and legal applications of new scientific understanding.

Externally Funded Research Projects. There are four categories of externally funded Water Institute projects depending on the level of involvement of the Water Institute in the project development (For more details see [Classification Policy](#)). These projects, summarized by category below, are funded by NSF, NOAA, USDA, FDEP, FDACS, WMDs, TBW, and AWWRF.

- **Water Institute Directed Research Projects** (\$3.9 Million, 11 projects)
- **Water Institute Assisted Research Projects** (\$2.5 Million, 6 projects)
- **Water Institute Faculty Research Projects** (over \$90,000,000) - Faculty affiliated with the Water Institute currently manage over \$90,000,000 in active externally funded projects. These projects are compiled in a [web-accessible database](#) that can be searched by investigator, department, keyword, title, date and/or funding agency.
- **Pending Water Institute Research Proposals** (\$1,939,000, 6 proposals)
- **Additional Water Institute Research Proposals Submitted** (> \$40,000,000, 19 proposals)

2007 Water Institute Program Initiation Fund Awards (Total Awards = \$195K) – Six projects involving 17 Faculty were funded under the first Program Initiation Fund (PIF) Competition in March 2007. Deliverables from projects included peer reviewed journal articles and proposals (submitted through the Water Institute) for externally funded research projects. Final reports on these projects are available [on-line](#).

2008 - 09 Water Institute Program Initiation Fund Awards - The UF Water Institute 2009 Program Initiation Fund seeks to fund faculty/student projects that will demonstrate the value of using integrated analysis of coupled human and natural systems to scope problems, engage stakeholders, build consensus and develop solutions for complex water issues in Florida. Issues that the projects may focus on include surface water withdrawals in the Ocklawaha or St. Johns River Basin; development and implementation of springs management plans; or water allocation issues in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint river basins. Proposals were due January 16th, 2009 and will be awarded in March, 2009.

EVALUATION OF EXISTING AND PRIORITIZATION OF NEW PROGRAMS

1. Develop a few focused questions for each group to assess level of engagement in WI activities, opinions about value of existing programs and services, and recommendations for new programs and services (5-6 questions max)
2. Request anecdotal information from through open questions (success stories, quotes) as part of the process in an effort to capture intangible benefits.
3. Consider having faculty focus groups as appropriate

Example of some focused questions for SURVEY:

1. List Projects, Activities and ask for level of participation, involvement/usefulness??? **(use a rating scale)**

EDUCATION/OUTREACH/SERVICE

- Biennial UF Water Institute Symposium
- UF Water Institute Distinguished Scholar Seminar Series
- Interdisciplinary Workshops and Expert Panels
- Administration of the Hydrologic Sciences Academic Cluster
- Smallwood Student Intern Program

RESEARCH

- Externally Funded Research Projects
- Water Institute Program Initiation Fund Awards**

2. List SERVICES provided by the Water Institute and ask for level of participation, involvement, usefulness (use a rating scale)

- Providing interdisciplinary venues for discussion....
- Facilitating Project Proposals.....
- Coordinating Research Projects
- Conducting Peer Review Activities
- Providing a central location for information on Water related activities at UF...
- Links to others at UF working with Water
- Other???

3. OPEN QUESTIONS

1. How has the Water Institute benefitted you?
2. What types of programs and services do you need that are not currently provided?

APPENDIX B

Water Institute Review 2009

Faculty Advisory Committee Recommendations:

1. Set goals for review before initiating process so that it can be designed effectively. Staff will draft a summary of goals and process and prepare background information (i.e. reports and shorter “marketing documents” to share with FAC for review and comment at next meeting.
2. Invite Win Phillips to meet with the FAC, before the review and engage him in the process -
FAC Chair (Dorota) and Wendy to invite Win Phillips to meet with the FAC after

Water Institute Review Plan – DRAFT February 26, 2009

Goal: To conduct a review/self-study of Water Institute Program to obtain feedback from the UF WI Faculty and external stakeholders to ascertain which current WI program activities, services, events and products are most valued and to help prioritize our activities for our next three years. Given the early phase of the Institute, the WI proposes to conduct a formative review for obtaining feedback, rather than a summative evaluation.

Purpose: The purpose of internal program review is to improve programs through a systematic process. The information obtained will help provide guidance to the Water Institute Director to help identify appropriate activities that are central to the strategic priorities of the Water Institute that might be targeted for growth, to enhance the quality of programs and for charting future directions. *When is the information needed?*

Objectives: By the end of the self-study/review, we will be able to evaluate the types and balance of WI Programs and activities by understanding UF WI Faculty:

- Level of engagement in the Water Institute Programs
- Opinions of the value of Water Institute Programs from their perspectives, including the strengths and weaknesses of these programs
- Opinions of where/how the Water Institute is adding value to UF water programs
- Suggestions for other opportunities/activities that are not currently provided that might be of use/value

Target: We propose to gather input from faculty, unit leaders (deans and chairs), students, selected external stakeholders and WI distinguished scholars .

Method/Process: Conduct a formative review focusing on outcomes (benefits to stakeholders from participation in the program). We are looking for input from WI Faculty their level of participation in WI activities, opinions regarding the value of those activities and recommendations for future activities.

Since the types of information that we are looking for in this review are more qualitative, and difficult to quantify, it is important that we consider different ways to get the information. We hope to be able to articulate what we want to do, what have we done, and to understand the impact of these activities on faculty, students and external stakeholders. We are aware of the need to collect the information *in an effective and efficient manner given the target*

group's lack of time and overexposure to some methods, *e.g., questionnaires*. Therefore we will:

4. Provide succinct background information (as presented in the update)
5. Develop a few focused questions for each group (5-6 questions max)
6. Request anecdotal information from through open questions(success stories, quotes) as part of the process in an effort to capture intangible benefits.
7. Consider having faculty focus groups as appropriate

Report: The information gathered will be incorporated into a final report and shared with the Faculty Advisory Committee, WI faculty, and UF administrators as appropriate.

APPENDIX C

Possible Symposium Themes and Committee Members

March 11 2009

Possible Themes:

Sustainable Water Resources: Complex Challenges, Integrated Solutions

Sustainable Water Resources: Environment, Economy, Energy, Equity

Sustainable Water Resources: ?????

- Challenges: Water Allocation, Protecting and Restoring Water Quality, Maintaining Aquatic Biodiversity, Sea Level Rise
- Current Solution Strategies: MFLs, TMDLs, AWS, Numeric Criteria for Nutrients, BMPs, Adaptive Management, Life Cycle Analysis (are they working? What are the successes? What is missing?)
- Possible Case Studies: ACF, Springs Management, Everglades Restoration, SJRWMD Alternative Water Supply Program (Cumulative Impacts Assessment), Lake Hancock/Peace River Basin, Industrial Sustainability Programs (Progress, Tropicana, Coca-Cola), Water and Energy Implications (solar, nuclear, wind/waves, biofuels, traditional power plants)
- Factors to be considered: physics, biology, chemistry, social, economic, policy, legal, education, communication, energy

Internal Academics (and FAC members who will also be tapped informally!)

Water Availability: Kirk Hatfield

Subsurface Water Quality: Mike Annable

Surface Water Quality: Mark Hoyer

Estuaries: Arnolde Valle-Levinson (invited, not confirmed)

Land Use: Jane Southworth

Ecology: John Hayes

Economics: Ray Huffaker

Law: Mary Jane Angelo

Political Science: Les Thiele

Sustainability: Dedee DeLongpre/Anna Prizzia

Energy: Tim Anderson

Human Dimensions: Susan Jacobson (invited, not confirmed)

1 Ph. D. Student: Becky Blanchard recommended by FAC

Outside Academics

Water Availability: Georgakakos Ga Tech, Hal Wanless U Miami

Water Quality: Jeff Chanton FSU, Robert Twilley LSU

Ecology: Mark Rains USF, Jim Heffernan FIU, Hilary Swain Archbold, Alan Covich UGA, Crisman USF

Economics: Wally Milon UCF

Human Dimension: Marcia Owens FAMU, Laurie Fowler UGA, Mike Kensler AU, William Graf USC

Outside Agencies:

1 rep from each WMD

Janet Llewellyn FDEP

Brenda Brickhouse, Progress Energy

Steve Lezman, Tropiciana

Coca-Cola Rep??

FIPR/Bureau of Reclamation if go with Peace River

Cynthia Barnett, Florida Trend

USGS: Ronnie Best, Barry Rosen, Brain Katz

Nation Estuary Program person: Holly Greening (TB), Rick Gleeson(GTM)

Division of Community Affairs/Growth Management person

EPA: Bob Bastian, Office of Water Policy, Washington, DC

FDACS: Aller, Budell

Everglades NP: Nick Aumen

USDA- Tifton Richard Lawrence

Water Utility Rep: GRU, TBW, Palm Beach Utilities, AWWA, AWRA

Friday Focus Group Topic Ideas: MFLs/ TMDLs Policy (with Law School), WI Impact/Evaluation Focus Group