MES Faculty Meeting

Wednesday October 5, 2016

In Attendance: Rhys Roth, Kevin Francis, Kathleen Saul, John Withey, Miranda Mellis, Heather May, Ted Whitesell

**Center for Sustainable Infrastructure:**

Roth: How can Center for Sustainable Infrastructure collaborate with MES? Problem: agencies create siloed infrastructure which does not foster sustainability. Ideas: partnering with City of Olympia (Envision-green certification for infrastructure) to offer fellowships. Fran, etc teach an elective with sustainable infrastructure certification as adjunct. Look closely at funding to see where opportunities lie to re-direct to sustainable infrastructure.

What do sustainable infrastructure leaders need and how can MES train them (Whitesell)? Planning tools, assessment tools, integrative thinking, problem-solving skills, and evaluation tools.

Saul has worked on student projects where interdisciplinary teams evaluate projects & presented a report to Delaware legislature.

Roth: Could use MES and MPA students: MPA students looking at planning, MES students look at environmental impacts (value-planning, investment approach, redefine outcomes/goals, NEPA/SEPA)

Whitesell: What strengths would our students have within this field? Lacking engineering, economics faculty-would we hire more? How to make them competitive?

Francis: track would be more involved in electives, not a strong track with electives. Flesh out list of skills and knowledge: hands on skilled trades, engineering, hands-on designs, systems thinking, analysts, executive decision-makers, planners, policy recommendations

Is an integrated MPA/MES program with focus on sustainable infrastructure crazy? (Roth) Options through ILC process, TESC supports the framework-how to bring it to the table? (Francis) Need some electives so that we can point to them for recruitment purposes: SPP and GIS are examples. Structural differences between MES and MPA make it difficult to offer a co-degree, but Ecological Economics had a good representation from both programs (CBA maybe?)

May: Thesis? Lack of faculty expertise (Whitesell), collaborate with Scott Morgan to plan sustainable infrastructure projects on campus based on evaluation (May)

Branding: need to promote it if it becomes a thing!

**Announcements:**

Get books to Heather for lending library, call out to recent grads to donate books.

Governance Update: John and Kathleen: career/PhD development, Erin and Ted: admissions

Update on new faculty: EJ Zita, 18’ through 20’: Tyrus Smith, 19’ through 21’. We should have a dinner!

UW visiting faculty sustainable fisheries talk. Case Studies or ESS-Francis handing over to Whitesell. Reach out to invite undergrads? Could be valuable recruitment tool. Heather will talk to Joslyn about SPP speakers. X

**RDQM:**

Francis explained standing practice to allow certain students to re-do curriculum, seemed to backfire last year. Was this effective for the students? (Mellis) Be more up-front about it that it is an equity opportunity (Mellis). There is an extreme of different knowledge bases in the class every year (Saul). Our bottom line goal is that we need students to be intelligent consumers of stats not necessarily intelligent producers of stats (Whitesell, quoting someone else). Be transparent, stretch your ability no matter what ability you come in with.

**Diversity and Equity:**

Recruitment: Heritage University, mostly Hispanic, Francis will visit, send Francis contact, Josh and Trace to visit Tacoma UW & Evergreen

Doris Duke Conservation Scholars at UW, SEEDS Program at Ecological Society of America: Withey will contact

NCSC Pilot Programs, McNair Fellowship (Whitesell)

Bilizekian will be of interest to these students

Application process: when there are applicants with a ‘weak’ application, Francis follows up on ‘rejection’ letter offering to talk about how to improve their application.

Think about semantics (Saul), professional development around diversity and equity: more conceptual shifts; rarely scientific folks represented (Whitesell); we can produce our own workshop; Johnson, Privilege, Power, and Difference Heather to purchase 6 copies

Think about curriculum consistency, what changes from year to year, if things fall off how to replace them in another course (environmental justice)? Think deeply about content/authors and making sure that the experience is meaningful for all students. Use a rubric? Three legged stool of sustainability? De-centering wisdom? Plan a time to meet and do this planning for this year (Francis). Need to include Erin, incorporate Women in Science group (Lolita).

Diversity and Equity Planning Meeting November 9, 10-12am. Discuss Privilege, Power, and Diversity

Focus group with students of color (Esmael, Ricky, Ayako)? Help with networking, connect with professionals in the field (Francis); Sharon Parker (Whitesell); How do we mentor students of color (Mellis); J Drew Lanham Birding While Black; prolific writer about people of color in ecology, may be good seminar material, or beneficial for us to read;

Faculty would like training on how to intervene in seminar or class discussions when there is a teachable moment surrounding diversity and equity. Heather put on list of training requests to Amy Betz x

From Case Studies: Michael Ratliff recommended a writing forum on Canvas to which everyone can contribute.

Need to make sure to discuss EEON-thesis! Find out more about it and alert students-Heather x

Email everyone faculty and adjuncts listserves-Heather X

Next Meeting October 26