

## Range Science Education Council Meeting, 1/31/2016 Corpus Christi, TX

Minutes recorded by Paul Meiman (RSEC Secretary)

Meeting run by Marc Horney (RSEC President)

Dirac Twidwell (RSEC Vice President)

8:05 a.m. Meeting called to order by Marc Horney

Introductions of attendees

*Paul Meiman, Colorado State Univ.*

*Karen Launchbaugh, Univ. of Idaho*

*Susan Edinger Marshall, Humboldt State Univ.*

*Anthony Perlinski, Chadron State.*

*Mort Kothmann, Texas A&M Univ.*

*Clayton Marlow, Montana State Univ.*

*Dan Rodgers, Univ. of Wyoming*

*Nancy Ibrahim, Sudan Univ.*

*Randall Violet, Southern Utah Univ.*

*Chad Dewey, Snow College*

*Ann Hild, Univ. of Wyoming*

*Melanie Murphy, Univ. of Wyoming*

*Pat Johnson, South Dakota State Univ.*

*Sandy Smart, South Dakota State. Univ.*

*Marc Horney, California Polytechnic State Univ.*

*Lovina Englund, Univ. of Idaho*

*Walter Fick, Kansas State Univ.*

*Sherman Swanson, Univ. of Nevada, Reno*

*Carlos Villalobos, Texas Tech Univ.*

*Dirac Twidwell, Univ. of Nebraska*

*Eric Thacker, Utah State Univ.*

*Tim Steffens, West Texas A&M Univ.*

*Val Anderson, Brigham Young Univ.*

*Bonnie Warnock, Sul Ross State Univ.*

*David Greene, Humboldt State Univ.*

*Karen Hickman, Oklahoma State Univ.*

*Lesley Morris, Oregon State Univ.*

*Mike Borman, Oregon State Univ.*

*Amy Ganguli, New Mexico State Univ.*

*Jim Dobrowolski, USDA NIFA*

8:10 High Impact Practices –

- Karen L. – Book “Make it Stick” (also available on audio), is a really good book, and is prompting KL to change how she teaches. Many other strategies. Quiz or test every day at the beginning of class
  - Hard learning is good learning – so don’t expect students to “like it”
- Amy G. – Uses games (Quizlet) with much luck. Drop rate down to 0. Grades increasing. Students really like it. Great for Plant ID.
- Susan E-M. – Flipping classes; records lectures and makes them available to students, they watch before class; Concept tests (ask a question, they answer part individually, then think-pair-share)
  - National Academy of Science Workshop – summer institutes on higher education. Weeklong session on active learning
    - STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!!
    - backwards design of courses
    - planning for engagement
- Rangeveg.wordpress.com – Module vegetation sampling
- Mort K. – Vegetation sampling course; flipped the lab a couple years ago

- In the lab, they come in and have excel spreadsheets; one with all the answers and the other is blank; can copy and paste if want, but have the example/solutions in front of them so can work toward solution.
  - Quizzes and exams are open book/notes
- Tony and Dirac – shared some experiences about flipping courses.
  - True integration of teaching, research and extension; having students publish extension bulletins/articles
  - Dirac – can run into problems when you have students work on too many projects; diving in on one has been very successful for them.
  - Tony – first year seminar.
- Marc – Enterprise courses (work study); sounds almost like an internship program that incorporates a lot of field experience.
- Karen – we have to work hard at learning; equates it to preparing for athletics, showing livestock, other competitions...did you just show up at the finals or game? No, highlight all of the practice/preparation. Learning is training...you have to train your brain. Discussed importance of Hidden Curriculum in courses to develop these skills
- Mort – have clear expectations on day-one and then stick to them.
  - 1-credit seminar. 1 letter grade penalty on the course grade for every un-excused absence; ½ letter grade for tardy (based on a signup sheet)
  - Karen said the above is an example of a “hidden curriculum” item as punctuality for professional development.
- Lesley – Hidden curriculum example, if they are upset or disagree about a grade they must wait 24 hrs, email and set up a time to meet and discuss the issue later (avoid hot-headed retaliation).
- Sandy – capstone class, team based; 4 opportunities to evaluate fellow team members; (see Sandy for the criteria; might have been above or below average, but what follows counts). If they move up they can increase half a letter grade; if they go down, decrease half a letter grade. He also includes a self-evaluation.
- Mort – there is a you tube video that is worth watching. Look for “entitlement credo (?)” or “entitlement video”.
- Clayton – commenting on the approach Sandy discussed for self and peer evaluation and said that he has worked as a referee.
- Karen groups students by their peer evaluations; all of the ones with the best peer evaluations are grouped together; and those with the worst are all in one group.
- Mort suggested that RSEC might organize and hold a rubric sharing session for next year. We could put them online and focus on how to develop good rubrics and do a better job at assessment.
- Sherm was hesitant to flip a class, so he flipped one of the 2 days each week; uses a combination of reading, lecture, outside readings, guest lectures and a 400-word report. Because it is an ethics course, they must incorporate 4 points on ethics.
- Marc – uses conference web cams to bring folks from the profession in for guest lectures.
- Eric – incorporate current issues and topics; each student can present short summaries about current issues 5 times each semester.

- Tim – all of his exams are take-home (students have a week to work on them), all essay and situations/scenarios (no matching, multiple choice, etc.). He thinks we should focus on recruiting folks into very “synthetic programs” for REM education.
- Pat – HEC grant.
  - Catalog of distance courses needs updated – everyone needs to update the catalog for their own institution. (Range Education at a Distance) (see handout from Pat)
    - contact information needs to be durable...department secretary (what’s it going to cost, will it be offered, etc.
- Lovina and Susan – Rangeland Careers and education
  - Careers page needs to be updated, Susan has a camera with her at these meetings and wants video of students and faculty to add to the page.
- Karen – the first exam is “you and a piece of paper” – things you should just know about range; second exam is to write a grazing plan (as a team); on the third exam, students can use any resource they need.
- Pat – Empowering students to learn and encouraging them to do difficult things
  - want students to enjoy their field/profession and to see value in it
  - we need to work hard – expand beyond comfort zone
- Lesley – Where do students get policy?
  - Sherm said it is their capstone
  - Eric covers it in intro/principles
  - Marc covers it in intro
  - Karen pointed out that policy and law and technology are not part of the 454 requirements
  - Mort - Tuesday afternoon 1-5 pm is a workshop on OPM 454 standards 4-5 pm what do we need to do
  - Susan – maybe for HEC, develop 3 modules
    - policy, law and regulations
    - cultural competencies
    - communications skills
  - Mort suggested folks work with someone in sociology departments if they don’t have someone in their own department.
  - Clayton talked about how Kendall Johnson required students to “read the act” and summarize it
  - Dirac said they tie most of what they do back to policy (e.g., monitoring, policy statements, legal statutes).
- Clayton – picking up more land resources and wildlife students who are trained in genetics and modelling. Don’t know about succession (plant and animal) or things like how vegetation ties to hydrology. How do you communicate with/teach those folks?
  - Eric said Chris Call would do a self-evaluation of what they know going into a class to help him know what students know coming in. He is using it successfully, along with a mid-term evaluation.
  - Mort suggested that we need to clarify what makes Range Students unique and what the agencies need. He feels like we may be headed back to a situation where non-range

students are getting hired for 454 positions; we may need to go back to KSAs for a given position

10:10 a.m. - Break

- Amy G. – produced her own cartoon character to use in classes
  - She then gave us a demonstration of how she uses Quizlet for Rangeland Plant ID
    - set for spelling
    - set for recognition – sight ID
    - generates exams
    - 2 game apps.
- Chris Dickey – PodCast
  - Introduced the CSU REC Podcast project. / Rangeland Cup Poster
  - Susan asked how will the impact on the listener be determined?

11:00 a.m.

- Karen H. – Teaching Award
  - early career and outstanding teacher; 2 applications for each
  - Selected recipient for each and will be presented at the awards ceremony
  - Need replacement committee members for Walt and Paul
    - Lesley Morris volunteered
    - Paul will stay on
- Marc presented the treasurers report from Shawn
  - Susan moved to approve the treasurers' report; Pat Seconded
  - Approved
- Web hosting proposal – Susan and Jeff – this was a carry-over from last year
  - Lovina said we have an ongoing MOU with Rangelands West/Rangelands Partnership and she is working on an agreement with Global Rangelands ([www.globalrangelands.org](http://www.globalrangelands.org)) to host the RSEC site
  - Karen – we need some approval from the Executive committee to fund landing page for RSEC
  - Susan asked if we should request some funding in the next HEC grant for this. Lovina said we do need to find a way to help support Global Rangelands
  - Karen moved that that we authorize our executive team to spend up to \$2000 to develop and host the RSEC landing page with these 5 tools on the current page; Susan seconded; motion passed.
- Karen H. RLO peer review process: HEC included an online peer-reviewed Rangeland Teaching Clearinghouse of teaching tools.
  - Karen H. is editor
  - ~12 different teaching tools (mostly PowerPoints)
  - Users create an account in order to submit something to review
  - Submissions should use the specified template
  - Anyone can use these resources and give RSEC credit
  - Eric suggested that it would be useful to have exam questions along with presentations or notes

- Lovina said that there would be a password protected site where exam questions/answers could be distributed
- Susan – HEC Grant
  - Karen L. – Old grant got the 5 tools posted on the RSEC Site for everyone to use. She would like to get to the next step where faculty from various institutions “call each other in” from other intuitions to help them teach their classes.
    - Karen will present results of the listening sessions at the OPM Workshop Tuesday afternoon
  - Susan – New grant: Last year in Sacramento – got a NIFA Grant for building a better capstone; that wrapped up. The next step (submission of a conference grant) was 2 minutes late; will resubmit next year (due in April).
    - Team will meet in Omni Lobby at 6 pm. Sunday to discuss next grant
    - She reviewed the objectives of the conference grant
    - Humbolt, UW, CSU, Oklahoma, UNR all involved
    - Develop 3 preparatory modules, and a model that pairs unique universities because that pair best addresses a capstone experience
      - policy law
      - cultural competencies
      - technology
    - Example of above pairing CSU with an institution that is more diverse – maybe a minority serving institution; or having UW paired with OKSU for private/public issues
    - Lovina suggested that this could be a Wrangle 2.0 – tying vegetation communities to the people/issues
    - Clayton asked if the proposal would actually move students around to different locations
      - Susan - probably both physically and virtually
- Karen L. – Karen will submit a report later on the Temp 1008 efforts (454 meeting/workshop). Karen will bring Range Program Leads together after the Tuesday workshop.
- Mort, PAC Update – Excited about what is going on in RSEC lots of energy and enthusiasm
  - Accreditation was developed in the 40’s – 60’s and then just sat there for quite some time. In 2004-2005, the PAC manual was revised.
  - Now moving away from bean counting to KSAs – what can students do and what do they know?
  - Borders around universities are becoming more transparent
  - Need to communicate what makes our graduates valuable commodities. The role of management science is not to lead the managers but to follow behind them and to describe it so others can do it also. As educators, we need to listen carefully to what folks have done in the field and then think about how to produce folks who can do those things and assess our effectiveness of doing so (learning outcomes is where we are headed).
    - Sandy pointed out that Tuesday workshop is the beginning of an ongoing, living process – a big collaborative effort.

- Mort – this time it should be adaptive management for accreditation. Last time the PAC process was produced and then left alone.
  - Clayton – review process is very positive and productive – self-evaluation leading to improvement; accreditation is a tremendous ally – a standard that can be held up to administrators as something of value.
- 2015 minutes
  - Add date and members present
  - made several corrections
  - Karen H. moved to approve the 2015 minutes as corrected; Pat seconded
  - 2015 minutes were approved.
- Clayton suggested that someone from RSEC contact Mike Smith so that the RSEC archive is deposited with the archive at UW.
- Karen L. nominated Lovina England as the RSEC Webmaster; Karen H. seconded; approved/passed.
- Susan nominated Amy G. as secretary; Karen H. seconded; Amy respectfully accepted. Marc called for additional nominations; Pat moved to close nominations; Someone (?) seconded; passed/approved. Amy is it (RSEC Secretary)!!

#### Round Robin.

- Tim S. – (Meiman missed the details...but they were informative, and at times, entertaining).
- Karen H., OKSU – Hired new faculty member last summer to replace Terry Bidwell. New faculty member is Laura Goodman out of NMSU; new Dept. Head, Jim Ansley in March.
- Susan – 50 range and soils students; graduated 16 students last spring; lost Ed Vasquez, advertising for a new lecturer.
- Tony – 130 Range Mgt. students, 3 faculty members and would like to hire a 4<sup>th</sup>; Currently searching for a new faculty member; graduated 20 students last spring.
- Amy – Lori Abbott retired from NMSU; Univ. is currently under a hiring moratorium, but got exemptions and are searching for a wtsd/remote sensing person and an herbarium curator (to be advertised in the spring); new brush and weed mgt. position from BYU; 45-50 Range students and 5 graduating.
- Mike – Corvallis student numbers are low (~15); have finished interviews for forage/livestock position and are searching for sagebrush ecologist.
- Lesley – OSU – La Grande – Hired a new forages professor who started in Nov.; all will miss Mike Borman!
- Karen – U of I has 45-50 students; hired a new wildlife and range person, Tracy Johnson, who works on wildlife/livestock interactions; interviewing for new range extension position in Boise; adding a restoration certification and concentration.
- Paul – our new dept. head in Forest and Rangeland Stewardship at CSU, Linda Nagel, started in the fall; we are glad to have her and she is here at the meetings; Roy Roath is officially retiring; we currently have ~35 students in the rangeland ecology major and another 10-12 students in the natural resources management major with a range ecology minor (most of whom will qualify for 0454 positions); 14 rangeland ecology majors graduated.
- Marc – 20 students in minor; new forest and range soils person; no major but a minor

- Eric – USU has 25 range majors which is an increase of about 15; no new faculty and no retirements
- Dirac – Mitch Stephenson started at Scottsbluff; graduate student numbers have doubled
- Sherm – UNR has seen some department reorganizations; range student numbers are growing and up to ~20; there is talk of developing animal and range science graduate program
- Walt – at KSU Range is an option with 7 students, but there are also some minors; no new people, but hired a forage specialist about a year ago.
- Sandy & Pat – SDSU has 25 undergraduate students; there has been lots of change at SDSU; Josh Leffler is a new grassland ecologist who joined the program; searching for a cons. biologist and a replacement for taxonomist; new department head is Michele Dudash from MD; hiring a range field specialist for southern/mid SD; now have 5 faculty members; graduated 5-10 students.
- Bonnie – At Sull Ross there is a range concentration in in NRM with 7 current students and 3 incoming students; their big news is that they are rolling out an online master of ag in range and wildlife mgt.
- Randall – Southern Utah University's program dept. head retired; new DH is an aggie; 4 faculty members in the dept; Randall is responsible for teaching all 18 credits of range; 100 students in ag; 35 in range emphasis; graduated 17 students; focus on interagency internships which are collaborative.
- Mort – No retirements or deaths at A&M; lots of students; 260 undergraduate students in 5 majors (88 or 90 in range); moving to hire young folks.

Adjourn 12:30 p.m.