

**RSEC Annual Meeting
February 6, 2011 --- Billings, Montana**

In attendance: Representatives from 23 institutions.

Susan Marshall (Humbolt State University), John Taylor (The University of Queensland), Karen Hickman (Oklahoma State University), Jeff Fehmi (University of Arizona), Sherm Swanson (University of Nevada, Reno), Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho), Val Anderson (Brigham Young University), Derek Bailey (New Mexico State University), Georgia Younglove (Chadron State College), Ron Pardini (University of Nevada, Reno), Craig Carr (University of Nevada, Reno), Greg Finstad (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), Laurie Abbott (New Mexico State University), Chris Call (Utah State University), Barbara Hutchinson (University of Arizona), Ernest Fish (Texas Tech University), Mort Kothmann (Texas A&M University), Lovina Roselle (University of Idaho), Skip Smith (Colorado State University), Paul Meiman (Colorado State University), Pat Johnson (South Dakota State University), Jorge La Fantasie (Fort Hays State University), Mike Borman (Oregon State University), Ryan Limb (Oregon State University), Marc Horney (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), Tamzen Stringham (University of Nevada, Reno), Ron Sosebee (Texas Tech University), Dan Rodgers (University of Wyoming), Edward Bork (University of Alberta), Shawn DeKeyser (North Dakota State University), Walter Fick (Kansas State University), Ken Fulgham (Humbolt State University), Carlos Villalobos (Texas Tech University), Sandy Smart (South Dakota State University), Clayton Marlow (Montana State University), Steve Whisenant (Texas A&M University).

Executive Committee

Georgia Younglove, President
Laurie Abbott, Vice President
Chris Call, Secretary

Program: Assessment of Rangeland Education Curriculum

(Secretary's note: In early March 2011, SRM committee approved the granting of 2 CEUs for attendance at this RSEC meeting.)

- *Overview of USDA-HEC Grant:* Karen Launchbaugh provided a synopsis of the USDA-Higher Education Challenge Grant that was awarded to the RSEC. The project, entitled *Repositioning Rangeland Education for a Changing World*, is funded for 3 years (2010-2013). Project outcomes include: 1) a needs assessment to identify core competencies of rangeland professionals and establish specific curricular goals; 2) increased quality and accessibility of rangeland educational resources; 3) programs to advance teaching skills of rangeland faculty; and 4) effective student recruiting efforts. Karen asked for volunteers to participate in activities associated with these outcomes.

- *Results from Student Survey:* Susan Marshall presented results from a student survey conducted as part of the USDA-HEC Grant. The survey, pilot-tested by RSEC members, had 228 responses, and covered topics such as: where students grew up, activities in high school, perceptions of range management, attractiveness of work settings, and how students learn about majors/careers. The presentation led to a discussion about recruitment strategies and the role of the RSEC in recruitment.
- *Outcomes Assessment at Oregon State University:* Mike Borman described 6 student learning outcomes, methods for measuring outcomes, and conclusions made during measurement activities for the Rangeland Ecology and Management program.
- *Outcomes Assessment at Brigham Young University:* Val Anderson provided an overview of the curriculum structure and expected learning outcomes for the Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation major. Evidence of learning is measured directly with student portfolios, and indirectly with job and graduate school placement rates, employer and alumni surveys, and student exit interviews. Assessment has resulted in several changes in the curriculum and approaches to improving written/oral communication skills.
- *Outcomes Assessment at Utah State University:* Chris Call described how the Wildland Resources Department evaluates the effectiveness of 4 majors in the undergraduate program by: assessing student performance in the capstone course, conducting student exit interviews, surveying students 1 and 5 years after graduation, and periodically interviewing employers. Assessment has resulted in several curriculum changes.
- *Outcomes Assessment at Texas A&M University:* Mort Kothmann provided an overview of the 15 program learning outcomes for 5 majors in the Ecosystem Science and Management Department. The university uses a software program, Weave Online, and develops rubrics to assess how outcomes are introduced, reinforced and demonstrated in the curriculum. The department also seeks input on needed knowledge, skills and abilities from employers.

Business Meeting

1. *Approval of 2010 minutes:* Minutes approved as posted on the RSEC webpage; send in any corrections via e-mail.
2. *Treasurer's Report:* Shawn DeKeyser
 - 25 member institutions in 2010.
 - Membership renewal notices sent on January 12, 2011; a second notice will be sent on February 15, 2011.
 - Savings account balance (January 1, 2011): \$14,311.22
 - Checking account balance (January 1, 2011): \$72.30

- Transactions report:
 - Savings account balance (January 1, 2010): \$15,031.48
 - Checking account balance (January 1, 2010): \$631.30
 - Receipts:
 - 20 institutional members (2010) \$1,000.00
 - Interest income (2010) \$29.74
 - TOTAL \$1,029.74
 - Payments:
 - 2 teaching awards \$2,000.00
 - ND Secretary of State \$10.00
 - Grant Casady (expenses) \$299.00
 - TOTAL \$2,309.00
- Treasury report approved.

3. *Historian's Report*: Mort Kothmann

- Everything available has been posted on the RSEC webpage. Historian duties were transferred from Mort to Karen Launchbaugh.

4. *Teaching Awards Committee Report*: Pat Johnson

- Received 8 nominations.
- Both the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award (Walt Schacht, University of Nebraska, Lincoln) and the Early Career Teaching Award (Paul Meiman, Colorado State University) will be awarded in 2011. (Secretary's note: the identities of the award recipients were not revealed at the 2011 RSEC meeting, and the names are being included here for the sake of keeping records).
- The 2010 recipients were Chuck Butterfield, Chadron State University, for the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award, and Andres Cibils, New Mexico State University, for the Early Career Teaching Award.

5. *Old/New Business*

- *Special Issue of Rangelands*: John Tanaka has developed a proposal for an issue of *Rangelands* (April 2012) focusing on education in rangeland ecology and management. This will provide a forum for highlighting innovative teaching methods and improving instruction within the profession. Potential funding sources include NIFA, and sponsorships from universities and RSEC. John, Chris Call and Laurie Abbott will serve as co-editors, and Georgia Younglove will oversee a task force that will identify topics and authors for the articles.
- *Budget Concerns*: Laurie Abbott presented a case for increasing RSEC dues in order to meet future annual expenditures. She recommended an increase from \$50 to \$100 per institution per year. After some discussion, the increase was approved.
- *PAC Update*: Sherm Swanson provided an overview of activities by the Program Accreditation Committee. The Accreditation Handbook was updated in 2009. The PAC reviewed the range programs at the University of Arizona and South Dakota

- State University in 2010, and will review the range programs at Oregon State University and Universidad Antonio Narro in 2011. Sherm also sought input on the Range Profession Survey conducted by Tom Bedell and others in June 2010. The discussion was wide-ranging, and covered the possibility of combining Bedell's survey data with data from previous surveys conducted by Mort Kothmann, and developing a manuscript, to reexamining competencies/skills associated with OPM course requirements and developing a white paper.
- *Multi-state Collaboration*: Ron Pardini asked about collaboration among range educators in different states/regions, other than the new USDA-HEC project. Two ideas for collaboration were mentioned: use the Western University Exchange program to give students exposure to different regions and issues (Susan Marshall); and use short courses/field trips to provide opportunities for students at universities lacking certain emphasis areas, i.e. riparian ecology and management (Tamzen Stringham). Karen Launchbaugh, Susan Marshall, Clayton Marlow, and Tamzen Stringham will investigate possibilities for multi-state collaboration.
 - *Teaching Awards Committee*: Pat Johnson agreed to stay on as Chair for one more year, then as a member for 2 more years. Greg Finstad volunteered to serve as a member for the next 3 years.
 - *Election of New Secretary*: Karen Hickman nominated Jeff Fehmi; seconded by Susan Marshall; unanimous vote in favor of Jeff for RSEC secretary.
 - *Round Robin*: Brief updates from RSEC representatives about the current status of programs at their member institutions.
6. *Transfer of Leadership*: Georgia Younglove passed the RSEC Presidency to Laurie Abbott.
7. *Meeting adjourned*.

Action Items for 2011:

1. Georgia Younglove will form a task group (and work with co-editors John Tanaka, Laurie Abbott, and Chris Call) to identify topics and authors for articles in special issue of *Rangelands* focusing on rangeland education.
2. Mort Kothmann will investigate the possibility of combining his past range program survey data with that of the 2010 survey conducted by Tom Bedell, and develop a manuscript.
3. Karen Launchbaugh, Susan Marshall, Clayton Marlow, and Tamzen Stringham will investigate possibilities for collaboration among rangeland educators in different states/regions.