

Range Science Education Council Meeting

February 9, 2014

Caribe Royale, Orlando, Florida

In attendance:

Executive Council:

Jeff Fehmi, President (University of Arizona)
Susan Edinger Marshall, Vice President (Humboldt State University)
Marc Horney, Secretary (CalPoly San Luis Obispo) DELAYED FLIGHT
Treasurer: Shawn DeKeyser (North Dakota State University)
Historian/webmaster: Karen Launchbaugh (University of Idaho)

Member Representatives and Guests:

Walt Fick - Kansas State University
Paul Meiman – Colorado State University
John A. Taylor – University of Queensland (retired)
Sherman Swanson– University of Nevada Reno
Mort Kothmann – Texas A&M University
Patricia Johnson – South Dakota State University
Jim Waggoner (For Dan Rodgers?) – University of Wyoming
Karen Launchbaugh – University of Idaho
Lovina Roselle – University of Idaho
Greg Finstad – University of Alaska
Kasey DeAtley – CSU Chico
Eric Thacker – Utah State University
Dirac Twidwell – University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Alexander “Sandy” Smart – South Dakota State University
Mike Borman – Oregon State University
Yacouba Sankara – US-AID
Walter Schact – University of Nebraska, Lincoln
Carlos Villalobos – Texas Tech University
Tony Perlinski – Chadron State
Clayton Marlow – Montana State University
Lovina Roselle – University of Idaho
Karen Hickman – Oklahoma State University
Val Anderson – Brigham Young University
Craig Carr – Montana State University

USDA HEC final wrap up of focus groups

Karen Launchbaugh – USDA Higher Education Challenge Grant Final Wrap- up

The overall message to the RHEC group is “Get more students into the field, make sure curriculum in on track.”

These were the four big areas in the grant:

- Needs assessment (see detail below)
- Increase quality and accessibility of educational material
- Advance teaching skills
- Recruitment

Needs Assessment

1. Focus group discussions have been performed
2. Internet survey of graduates and employers (>200 students)
3. Launchbaugh still wants to hold focus groups in Oklahoma and South Dakota to capture Great Plains needs.
4. Remaining questions: How does this all feed into University Program Accreditation and OPM RS-454 Standards?

On the basis of the needs assessment (survey and focus groups) our current weaknesses are GIS and policy and law (e.g. NEPA/ESA)

In terms of content – “What’s the baby, so we can throw out the bathwater” - Mort Kothman

CLASSROOM INNOVATIONS

Karen Hickman – Rangeland Teaching Resource Clearinghouse

The goal to produce open access site for submission of peer-reviewed teaching materials. Karen Hickman is Editor.

What should the name of the vehicle for sharing teaching resources?

This will be hosted by the Global Rangelands website.

Much discussion ensued of what shared curriculum means in term of faculty lines for hire. Kasey from Chico expressed appreciation for this “hand down” of information. Guard against homogenizing range education, probably have to make strong arguments that this is a legitimate peer-review product (Keith).

Clayton – we need to avoid canned lectures, but we need bits and pieces to strengthen our own teaching.

Eric – can definitely see pulling bits and pieces from various sources.

Paul – agrees that a parts approach is valuable

Jim - broader geographic education exposure will be valuable

Greg – there is a standard core of range concepts out there

Karen Hickman asked for Editorial Board volunteers: Jeff Fehmi, Sandy Smart, Shawn DeKeyser, Mort Kothmann

Lauren Svejcar – Softchalk – Vegetation Measurements for Rangeland Monitoring
(shared Powerpoint presentation) 14 modules
Asked for case studies to add to the material

Lovina Roselle – Using Wrangle in the Classroom
Sandy Smart mentioned a biome unit developed at Langston University
Eric Thacker – are there ways to measure downloads and use?

Patricia Johnson – Range At a Distance – Searchable On-Line Courses
Overview, please check your links, shall we continue this?
Distinction between CEUs and SCUs should be made.
We need to show this searchable database to SRM staff so they can field questions more readily

General discussion about RHEC – links to accreditation, what are the essentials of what are called a range profession? (Mort Kothmann), we have a CPRM exam – which in a sense defines a profession.
Karen Launchbaugh: 1. Range Plants, 2. Range Ecology, 3. Range Inventory, 4. Range Management and others.

Kothmann - Competencies expressed as nouns, shall we express them more as “What can graduates do”?

Swanson - Can these be put in the form of a survey to ask about accuracy, importance, level of complexity (capstone or entry level), to vet the work that has been done. Are there holes that need to be filled?

Launchbaugh – Can we teach this all in 120 units?

Swanson – classify competencies as core and enrichment

Waggoner – question of water resources, mediation and conflict resolution, especially with oil and gas development on public lands, different employers have different approaches

Launchbaugh – build credibility in core first, negotiation and advanced experience may come later. Some skills are best taught in internships or in collaboration with stakeholders - “trailer backing” is not to be taught at the university.

DeAtley – Remember that other departments provide other skills

Swanson – Can we do a teleconference along the lines of the focus group structure that is already in place?

Kothmann – Should there be a Ph.D. in range management? We are interdisciplinary science – we have the pieces, we deal with wholes. We are broader than the specialists.

Various – frustration among students that they can’t use their “science and content” that they get bogged down in lawsuits and controversy. Again, emphasize higher level thinking.

More discussion – how do we fill our boots and keep this profession going?

Grading Rubric for Online Discussions – Sandy Smart

Grassland Fire Ecology Course - Great Plains IDEA

Discussions on-line, Sandy took three courses about how to do on-line courses

Sandy demonstrated rubric for grading, then some actual posts. Grading is electronic and enables feedback. The discussions enhance writing skills. Individual posts can be used to construct lengthier term papers.

RSEC Business Meeting

Announcement about Masonic Range Science Scholarship

Approval of Agenda (Approved)

Approval of 2013 minutes (approved)

Treasurer's Report

Proposal to specify officer duties – some of the jobs listed here are actually separate. As proposed by Jeff Fehmi, some duties were folded together and may require a change in by-laws. Offices of Treasurer and Historian should be longer term. Propose that Webmaster should be taken out from secretary duties. Pat Johnson suggests that Awards Chair be longer term. Awards chair duties should be taken out of Vice President duty. Jeff's notes are advisory, no action was taken.

Discuss migrating RSEC/HEC websites over to University of Arizona Library – Karen Launchbaugh – they are doing a great job; librarians, tech. people, range people. \$15,000 from RHEC will keep things going for a few years.

Feedback on RSEC logo – Karen Hickman – landscape is an open book, sun rising, comments that contrast needs to be cranked up for accessibility purposes, “Range Science” needs to be darkened. People want to add a plant. Karen Hickman will send out a sketch for approval online.

Teaching Awards Committee report – Susan Edinger Marshall

Organize links from RSEC members to rangelandcareers.info

~~RLO peer review process—Karen Hickman~~

Western Coordinating Committee 1008, Rangeland Education Across Institutional Borders – Sherm Swanson, WCC 1008 is a committee of NAURP, travel funding is possible through Ag. Experiment Stations (variable from state to state), meeting will be this afternoon in Boca 1, Activities 1,4,6,7,8,9 are being

done by RHEC – how do they continue? There are other activities (10) that will be addressed by WCC 1008. One big goal was to coordinate cross-listed courses between institutions – that’s why we needed to pull in program leads (we declined to take this on in a big way). What is our best role to support RSEC RHEC activities? Shall WCC 1008 meet concurrently with RSEC in Sacramento 2015?

SRM Program Accreditation Committee activities: 2014 – Mort Kothman – to be able to practice “range.” 2005 was the first revision to accreditation standards. We have to go further. Can an institution be accredited when it is borrowing on-line courses from other institutions? “We are bound in structure instead of function.” We need an accreditation for schools that can’t come up with FTEs. There will be two focus task groups created to discuss these issues. We hope to bring back a report by the end of the year; ask what are the needed modifications? We have no reporting for substantive changes – this should probably be added.

Offering ESD workshops for undergraduates at future SRM meetings – Karen Hickman – happened at Oklahoma City last year (12-15 participated), they didn’t do it this year, but NRCS would like to do it again, perhaps every other year, Mark Mosely is the contact person.

Election of new RSEC Secretary and awards members –

- Dirac Twidell (new Secretary)
- Pat Johnson will serve as chair of Awards Committee (term expires 2015)
- Greg Finstad (term expires 2015)
- Paul Meiman (term expires 2016)
- Walt Schacht (term expires 2016)
- Karen Hickman will continue as a committee member (term expires 2017)
- Kasey DeAtley will add on as a new committee member (term expires 2017)

- Jeff Fehmi will serve as webmaster

Other business

Survey Monkey results

Round Robin

Transfer of Leadership

Sign cards for Chris Call and Laurie Abbott

Round Robin

Institution	Name of reporting person	Number of undergraduates in Range	Number of Graduates in Range	Change in Faculty
BYU	Anderson	130	35	no
Cal Poly SLO				
Chadron State	Perlinski	160-200	0	Younglove has left
Colorado State	Mieman	45	25	Troy Ocheltree
Ft. Hayes State				LaFantasie
Humboldt	Edinger-Marshall	52	2	no
Kansas State	Fick	5	3	no
Montana State	Not present at time of Round Robin			
New Mexico State	Not present at time of Round Robin			Tim ross retiring
North Dakota State	DeKeyser	NR/Range 130	50-60	2 new faculty plus one more
Oklahoma State	Hickman	15 undergrads	12-15	no
South Dakota State	Johnson	25	10	Dept. head passed away, new grassland
Sul Ross State	Not present at time of Round Robin			

Institution	Name of reporting person	Number of undergraduates in Range	Number of Graduates in Range	Change in Faculty
Texas A&M	Kothmann	225, 50 RLEM	No grad. Range decree, 78 in ecosystem	Recruiting for new dept. head head, 3 new extension range
Texas Christian	Not present at time of Round Robin			
University of Alberta	Not present at time of Round Robin			
University of Arizona	Fehmi	167 most wildlife, 20 range	15	no
University of Idaho	Launchbaugh	60	9	Bunting is retiring
University of Nevada-Reno	Swanson	12	12	No, but hired a soils & agronomist,
University of Wyoming				
Utah State State	Thacker	16	39, 6 range	Replacing Chris Call, Roger Banner was replaced by Thacker, Andrew Kamatiski
Washington State University	Not present at time of Round Robin			
Oregon State	Borman	60	5	Leslie Morris hired in LaGrande,

Institution	Name of reporting person	Number of undergraduates in Range	Number of Graduates in Range	Change in Faculty
				Carlos Ochoa at Corvallis
University Nebraska, Lincoln	Dirac Twidwell	25	8	Another range position at panhandle soon
Cal State Chico	DeAtley	40 in land resources	0	Will be hiring a new plant scientist
Alaska	Finstad	Certificate 30	2	

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Secretary Marc Horney,

Susan Edinger Marshall