

Hydrological Sciences Academic Cluster
Minutes of Annual Faculty Meeting
April 15, 2008

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by J.J. Delfino (Faculty Committee Chair of the HSAC for 2006-2008) at approximately 3:15 PM. Faculty in attendance: J.J. Delfino (EES), Matt Cohen (SFRC), Wendy Graham (Water Institute/ABE), Jim Jawitz (SWS), Rafa Munoz-Carpena (ABE and incoming Chair for 2008-2010), Mark Newman (Water Institute and CCE), and George O'Connor (SWS)

2. **Approval of Minutes** of the April 19, 2007 Annual Faculty Meeting.

Motion to approve: George O'Connor

Second: Wendy Graham

Vote: Unanimous approval

3. **Faculty/Student Recruitment.**

Discussion focused on the need to improve validating student records to ensure that HSAC student Plans of Study are approved and checked prior to graduation. This included means of tracking students as they make progress in the curriculum.

The role of the Water Institute [WI] in HSAC was discussed.

The need to attract and retain graduate students interested in the HSAC via a streamlined approach was also discussed.

Motion by Jim Jawitz: Send email to faculty and students on the WI and HSAC email lists to encourage HSAC membership. [Note: Rafa agreed to formulate an e-memo and work with Mark to distribute it electronically].

Second: George O'Connor

Vote: Unanimous approval

To facilitate the new membership campaign, the HSAC Chair will be granted posting privileges to the WI email lists for the purposes of HSAC promotional activities and for the HSAC email list for HSAC business.

4. **New Faculty Coordinating Committee Members.**

The following slate of officers was proposed for the new Faculty Coordinating Committee that will be impaneled upon the adjournment of this meeting:

Surface Hydrology: Rafael Munoz-Carpena (ABE) [also, Committee Chair]

Analysis and Techniques: Greg Kiker (ABE)

Hydrologic Policy: Laila Racevskis (FRE)

Hydrologic Biology: Matt Cohen (SFRC)

Subsurface Hydrology: Jim Jawitz (SWS)

Hydrologic Chemistry: Jean-Claude Bonzongo

Motion to approve the slate of officers: Rafa Munoz-Carpena

Second: George O'Connor

Vote: Unanimous approval

5. Transition of HSAC Chair.

Discussion was held as to the manner in which the transition of the HSAC Chair would be handled. Joe (outgoing Chair) and Rafa (incoming Chair) planned to meet to discuss the details. They will also be meeting with a representative of the Graduate School to discuss the way in which prospective HSAC graduate students designate their proposed membership in the Cluster and also ways in which their Plans of Study can be verified prior to graduation.

6. Course-Work Only Degree.

The Graduate School now requires only 30 credits for a masters degree [thesis, non-thesis project or coursework only program] whereas the HSAC currently requires 32 credits, including a project. The faculty suggested that this be handled in the By-Law revision process, thereby allowing any change to be implemented upon approval of the revised by-laws by the full HSAC faculty.

7. Promotion of the HSAC Program and Distance Ed Courses.

The faculty discussed the need to promote the HSAC among their graduate students, and also among the students of UF water-oriented faculty [see WI faculty listing; see item 3, above].

Distance Ed courses are generally the same as those offered on campus [at least in the Engineering EDGE program and in the SWS program] so students can take the HSAC listed courses either on campus or via distance. The remaining issue is that not all [in fact, not many] HSAC listed courses are available on-line. This means that on-line masters students [especially those in Engineering and SWS] would likely not be able to meet their 12 or 18 credit requirements for the HSAC designation solely via distance education.

To promote the exposure of the HSAC to the academic community, the HSAC web page (<http://hydrology.ufl.edu>) will be reconfigured/reformatted under the WI main web presentation to present it as the first program under the Education tab in the main WI page.

8. UCOWR Dissertation Competition.

The Water Resources Research Center is the point of contact for the UCOWR dissertation award competition annually [one, each, in physical sciences and engineering; and social science and policy studies]. The WRRRC will announce the competition each year through its email directory and through the WI and HSAC email listings.

9. New Business.

Wendy Graham requested faculty to respond to the survey being conducted by the Survey Monkey process.

An *ad-hoc* By-Laws Revision Committee was discussed and constituted, consisting of Wendy Graham, Mark Newman, Rafa Munoz-Carpena and Joe Delfino. The committee is to review the HSAC By-Laws and produce a revised version which

would then be sent to all HSAC faculty members for approval. [note: the committee met in May, 2008 – except for Joe Delfino who was out of town – and suggested By-Laws revisions which will be sent to all HSAC members in the Summer of 2008. Joe provided comments after the meeting and prior to the distribution to the membership].

10. Adjournment.

By acclamation of the attendees, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Minutes prepared by J.J. Delfino, May 28, 2008; an updated, edited version was prepared on May 29, 2008.