

Attendees: Warren DeBusk, Sarah Keeting, Mandy Kuykendall, Jeff Ceplinger, Bill Jackson, Cathi McMahan, Glen Bishop, Jay Post, Karen Hall

Welcome and Introductions by Dr. Cathi McMahan

Approval of minutes from previous meeting

RP Program Updates:

Williamson Fire Renovation / 404 N El Paso Update – Since the fire in April we have moved from South Hall to this new location. We will be here approximately 2 years until Williamson is restored. A modular kitchen is being designed and hope to have it in place by February. This room will be converted to a dining room –multipurpose room.

Field Seminar in Interpretive Methods set for January 6-11 being taught by Jay Miller

5th Grade Camp set will be held a Camp Aldersgate April 6-10. This will be the 50th Anniversary. Jay Post teaching Camp Administration and Outdoor Education.

Preparations are underway for the AWFA (Arkansas Wildland Fire Academy). Will be held on campus last two weeks in May. Approximately 300 were in attendance last year

PRHA Career Opportunity Day will be Wednesday March 8th in the Young Ballroom

Five RP students will be interning in the spring of 2020

Three students received an ARPA Scholarship in the fall of 2019

Dr. Glen Bishop Retirement: Announced he will be retiring at the end of the semester after 20 years of service. His position is currently posted and will be covered by adjunct faculty in the spring. Need someone to teach Landscape Planning and Design an also Financing Recreation and Parks. Please contact the department if able or can refer someone.

Theresa Herrick Golf Tournament – held September20 at the Russellville Country Club. We had 6 teams entered with 36 hole sponsors. We raised approx. \$5,000 with this event. The scholarship becomes endowed when a total of \$25,000 is raised. Donations for the scholarship can be made at any time. We hope to have another tournament in Sept. of 2020.

Curriculum Ideas / Concerns: What are the plans for the future? This is the only accredited program in the state of AR. Is there a need for certificate programs? What new courses would benefit the program?

Dr. McMahan and Jay Miller (interpretive instructor) have had conversations regarding a certificate in Museum/Historic Site Maintenance.

It was agreed that certificates would be a good recent high school graduate program. Certificates would be a good door opener to get into entry level positions.

Bill Jackson announced that there should be several job openings this next year with the Ouachita region of the USFS. He would like to see Tech notified when positions become available.

There is a need for students to be taught how to build and maintain trails. Students also need to attend Trails Council meetings. Possibly a partnership with Walmart to endow a trail building class.

Bill Jackson also suggested to start recruiting at elementary school and high school levels. Reach out to the school counselors to set up a career day.

Other suggestions were to use tourism classes to get students out in the field to work on real life projects. During Camp Stormy set up a career segment.

It was announced that Lake Dardanelle State Park received recognition for Park of the Year.

Next Meeting will be held April 29, 2020

No other items – Meeting Adjourned