

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, March 3, 2023 2:30 pm in JHN 022**

MINUTES

Call to Order - Open Session (2:33 PM)

Announcements

- **Space/lab allocation (Steig)**
 - There are funds available for creating a kitchen, potentially in JHN 143 (side glass room in JHN 141). Discussed current state of space allocation plans. Eric will bring a comprehensive space plan to the next faculty meeting. If you have comments or concerns, please express them to the Executive Committee.
- **Short list for Surface Processes search (Crider)**
 - We have a short list, but cannot say more in the open session.
- **Research faculty hires update (Catling, Tobin)**
 - Will have a recommendation for both positions in the closed session.
- **Policy Committee presentation re: General Exam Policy (Bergantz)**
 - The committee's first order of business is to find out what the *current* policy is for the General Exam prior to collecting any feedback. The faculty need to first vote on whether or not we agree on the existing policy. This needs to occur prior to any changes in the policy.
 - The committee solicited input from graduate students to have a better understanding of what they find as obstacles. The policy needs to be flexible, while also detailing expectations.
 - Problem #1: competing, and sometimes incorrect, expectations and details of the policy. For example, it is NOT a current requirement that graduate students have to publish a paper prior to the general exam. Problem #2: students do not feel the expectations or methods of evaluation are clear
 - **Action Item:** George will send the policy in its current form, which has been "cleaned up" but no changes have been made, to the faculty to read over. **Faculty will provide feedback on whether or not this reflects the current policy.**

Standing Committees Announcements

- **Admissions (Buick)**

- Admitted 16 applicants so far, 11 visiting for open house. Nominated 3 people for awards. There is additional RA support—if you are not sure if the student you admitted will come, admit another! Please approach the committee within the next two weeks if you want to admit someone else. Five weeks away from the admissions deadline.
- **Computing (Walters)** - reminders on Shared NetIDs and Google Suite
 - If you are using UW gmail, please migrate to Microsoft outlook sooner rather than later. Please ask ESS Comp for help if you need it.
 - Please send software updates for computer labs to Comp Help ASAP. Need to be tested before students start using them for Spring Quarter.
- **Diversity (Tobin)** - **idea re: colloquium diversity speaker**
 - Field equipment: It may not be appropriate to use STF funds to purchase equipment—personal gear such as boots and rain gear are needed the most. Is departmental support in the form of small scholarship funds appropriate or possible? Undergraduates have the greatest needs for field camp, field work in courses, etc.
 - Is there a viable path at the College level to make resources available for students across the College of the Environment? It is worth finding out what other departments have for gear, and if they have funds for students. **Eric will bring this up at the monthly meeting with other unit chairs/directors.**
 - Colloquium: There is a formal policy that requires $\frac{1}{3}$ of all speakers are from underrepresented, marginalized populations, with an emphasis on early career (DLS speaker). We have not done a great job of keeping on top of this (though the need to keep colloquia open for speakers has contributed). The DEI committee additionally proposes that 1-2 speakers a year are invited to speak on topics related to promoting DEI in Earth Sciences. **This information will be written down in an appropriate place and passed along to whichever faculty member(s) are coordinating the colloquium.**
 - All faculty (students, postdocs) are encouraged to nominate speakers. A “Call for Colloquium Nominations” will be sent out for upcoming quarters, and an ongoing list of recommendations will be kept. We need faculty volunteers for colloquium coordinators (An email soliciting volunteers was sent out after the meeting and the slots are almost full).
 - A discussion on the purpose of colloquium in general would be worthwhile. For example, the Chair and others have suggested that we have PhD defenses in colloquium slots, as many other departments do.

- **Prelim (Stone, Schmidt)**
 - Currently reviewing the prelim process to decide what to do for next year. Solicited feedback from graduate students, positives and negatives of that experience. Expectations need to be communicated better. Will have more details to discuss at the beginning of April.
- **Promotion, Merit, & Reappointment (Montgomery, Catling)**
 - Please submit your annual faculty activity reports due at the end of the quarter. Significant raises on the table this year.
- **Senate (Stone)**
 - In the process of changing faculty code to make language more gender neutral. Those changes can be seen, but the amended sections were not the correct sections. More changes will take a month. Presented a road map for the process of increasing the diversity requirement for classes in the General Education requirements from 3 to 5 credits, and ultimately to 10 by 2028. Looking for a volunteer to take over John's position.
- **College Council Representation (Schmidt)**
 - Reviewing guidance for promotion and tenure to advise faculty who are coming up for tenure soon. Developing guidance and tools for community engaged research - trying to determine what this means and how to interpret on CV. Interviews for the College of the Environment Associate Dean of DEI are happening this week. These talks are public and recorded. Please attend/watch and fill out feedback forms!

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:43)