**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 1/9/2026, 2:30 pm in JHN 026**

OPEN Minutes

[Attendance: Buick, Cantine, Catling, Christianson, Condit, Crider, Gorman-Lewis, Huntington, Journaux, Krissansen-Totton, Lipovsky, Mehra, Montgomery, Muth, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Tobin, Walters, Winebrenner; Bernard-Kingsley, Caton, Manos, Lloyd, Khuller, D. Reusch, Huang]

Call to Order - Open Session (2:30 PM)

Announcements

Update on changes to ESS Computing (Schmidt, 1 min)
- Conversation is continuing with ATMOS for research/linux support.
- ESS is moving to join College's Shared IT Support (eSITS) for other computing services. Henry will remain the point person for general computing needs, and his office will remain in JHN. Requests for computing help will go through the eSITS ticketing system. eSITS staff will respond when Henry is out of the office or occupied with other tasks.
- Potential downsides: some of Henry's duties would change. A few things we would not be able to ask him to do (e.g., printing posters). Henry would also potentially be "on duty" for other departments.

New Civil Rights Training for employees (Schmidt, 1 min)
- All employees (faculty, staff, student employees) must complete the new training by **Feb 20 (college deadline)**. Details provided next week via email. ~30-40 minute training.
- This training is an outcome of the agreement with DOJ and UW from last year. Employees who do not complete will not be eligible for merit.

ESS Digital Accessibility for Canvas Workshop - **Friday, 1/30 2:30-3:30 p.m.**
- Most instructors should be able to get their Canvas page to 70% compliance in 1 hour. The University goal is to get to 80% compliance by April. Learn tools in the workshop to inch above 70%.
- The ESS training on Jan 30th is meant to be an active workshop; so bring your specific questions and Canvas page.
- An alternative University-sponsored training is on January 22nd (info).

Panopto Recordings (Caton, 1 min)

- Faculty will be responsible for scheduling Panopto recordings for their courses. See [UW IT step-by-step guide here](#). If you have questions, please contact Henry ([esscomp@uw.edu](#)) or join the Teaching Technology's office hours. [Instructions for how to join here](#).

Standing Committees Announcements

Admissions (Gorman-Lewis) - Update
- If you are recruiting students this year, hopefully you have heard from someone on the committee this year about applicants that mentioned you on their application. If you are recruiting and haven't heard, reach out.
- The priority deadline for admitting students is 1/15/26. t. ~7-8 people think they will be admitting a student.
- If we do have a prospective student visit, it is going to be reduced in time compared to previous years. If you want your prospective student to meet with other faculty, have those meetings happen online before the visit.
- The committee is considering revising our graduate application for next year/future years. If you are interested in helping with that or have feedback, email Drew. They will need to have a revised application finalized by March AT THE LATEST. Revisions need to happen quickly.
  - Motivation for changing the application? To better extract relevant information from applications and letters of recommendation.

Faculty Senate (Walters) - Update
- Report from Interim Senior VP – Risk areas include: declining state revenue, risk to international student enrollment, uncertainty around federal policy regarding ICR, and federal and state health care funding. More information:
  - [UW Office of Finance Planning and Budgeting](#)
  - [Most recent budget report](#) (presented to Board of Regents in November)
  - [Planning for FY27 Operating Budget cycle](#) (started this month)
- Class A Legislation on P&T - passed in Senate. Discussed what this legislation does and does not do.
- Class C Resolution concerning any potential agreement between the UW and Federal Government amended and approved by Senate.
- Discussed UW Retirement Plan transition to TIAA.
  - Be very leery of traditional annuity options. Check that the distributions are the ones you want and that they did not default to something that seems strange to you. Make an appointment if you need.

GeoClub (Stone)

- Planning a spring break trip, ~10 students expressed interest in going. Club is currently planning to drive up the Columbia River, stopping along the way at geologically interesting things.
- Brian Atwater will take part and join for a day or two. If you are interested in participating in some capacity, or have a favorite geologic site you think they should stop at, please let John Stone know.

Honors & Recognition (Huntington, Catling)
- Currently creating a database compiling awards and opportunities with the aim to support nominations and make the process generally easier for faculty.
- Will send out a short survey, please fill out once per award/nomination that you want to see in the database. Multiple award submissions welcome. Duplicate award information is of added value with anyone's comments or insights into successful nominations.
- When preparing award nominations, it is helpful to see examples of successful nominations. If you know previously successful nominations, enter names and contact info in case they would be willing to give advice.

Policy (Montgomery)
- More later on P&T topic.
- Please bring any issues/ideas to the committee for consideration.

Scholarships and Awards (Gorman-Lewis, Montgomery)
- Applications are open. Monday 4PM in JHN 170 having an information session.
- Please submit nominations for the two department alumni awards.

Business

P&T Criteria for ESS (Schmidt, 15 min)
- Provost has asked units to update their P&T guidelines by early Spring.
- Generally discussed the pros and cons to putting together department guidelines, general agreement to make them both flexible with helpful examples/guidance for junior faculty.

Should ESS develop supplementary guidelines for faculty P&T, beyond those provided by the Faculty Code and College Council?
- **Goal**: to have guidelines that provide specificity, clarity and transparency about expectations without being prescriptive or violating the faculty code.

- The Faculty Code is broad, which creates challenges in explaining discipline-specific expectations and helping faculty understand how to build a successful P&T package (e.g., how do you weigh creating a lab vs. fieldwork in Antarctica vs. participating in NASA missions).

General consensus that any guidance should be:
- Advisory, not prescriptive
- Flexible and holistic, avoiding rubrics or scoring systems
- Framed as clarification and **examples**, not minimum quotas

The College Council will be reviewing guidelines this winter.

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:40 PM)