

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 2/6/2026, 2:30 pm in JHN 026**

OPEN Minutes

[Attendance: Buick, Catling, Christianson, Condit, Crider, Gorman-Lewis, Koutnik, Krissansen-Totton, Lipovsky, Mehra, Montgomery, Muth, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Walters, Waddington, Winebrenner; Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Caton, Dakins, Lui, Manos, Parker (Michael), Cohen, Reusch (Mouse & David)]

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

Announcements

- Congratulations to: Kunmanee Bubphamane and Roger Buick on a recent publication in Nature; David Catling will be the interim-astrobiology director through December; Catling has also been awarded Geochemical Fellow by the Geochemical Society.
- Reminder that **Faculty Activity Reports** will be due March 20th. ESS staff are working on the logistics of the form and will send out an email with instructions.
- Reminder to complete the **civil rights training** by February 12th.
- **Digital accessibility training** - Reminder of the DOJ April 24th deadline. There is a recording of last week's training available for people who want it, please email Summer (sacaton@uw.edu). There are multiple [other trainings](#) and [other resources](#) offered by UW.
- Cold Lab construction has begun adjacent to the PNSN – this will impact ATG occupants.
- Update on changes to purchasing orders (Schmidt, 5 min)
 - **Non-recurring** (one-time) purchase order requests are now processed by the eFAST team through TREQ. **Recurring/ongoing** purchase order requests (e.g. gas for lab, monthly subscriptions) continue to be processed by the ESS fiscal team by submitting (old) excel spreadsheet). More information can be found on the ESS intranet.
- Proactively reserving UCARs (Schmidt, 1 min)
 - Reservations are tied to UW NetID and you need to know worktags in advance. If you want to pick up a car outside business hours, rent from the central garage or south campus center, otherwise the key box is behind a locked door after business hours.
- Student and employee support (Schmidt, 2 min)
 - Reminder about what constitutes public and private spaces on campus. Remember that there are privacy and FERPA laws regarding sharing personal information.

- The front office staff will put up SAFECAMPUS and non-emergency campus PD phone numbers. Suggest saving these to your phone contacts.
- Petitions and tuition waivers (Bernard-Kingsley, 2 min)
 - In the past, the process for submitting petitions for late registration fee waivers or tuition waivers was simple. This is no longer the case. If a student has questions about the implications of changing their registration status, please refer them to Student Services so we can avoid fees. Students should plan to register for classes before the start of the quarter.

Standing Committees Announcements

- Admissions (Gorman-Lewis) - Update (1 min)
 - Admitted 12 students. Prospective visit is Feb 26-27. People who have students coming, you should have received an email from Noell last week with a link to the prospective students visit tool. Make sure to check that out to create schedules and set up meetings.
- Colloquium (Steig, Caton)
 - The Mindlin Lecture with Dr. Chris Glein is coming up; Wednesday 2/25 for the public lecture and Thursday 2/26 for regular colloquium.
- Faculty Senate (Walters) - Update (2 min)
 - The faculty senate had a general Q&A with DRS about digital accessibility. There are a series of weblinks, resources, etc. Please reach out to Steven Walters for the slides.
 - Faculty continue to discuss the shift to TIAA and have expressed issues with central administration about the lack of consultation. If you have feedback, reach out to Steven.
- GeoClub (Stone)
 - A reminder that the geoclub will be moving forward with a local spring break trip in WA from 3/21 to 3/25. John will lead the trip. But faculty are welcome to join for the day along the Columbia river.
- Policy (Montgomery)
 - The committee is discussing two topics – Affiliates and P&T guidance. The committee plans to present on both at the next faculty meeting.
- Prelim Exams (Christianson, Muth)
 - Juliet Crider is rotating on to the committee. The committee met with students to discuss feedback. For the most part they felt it was a stressful but productive experience. Students suggested having more practice presentations in the Spring 594 class.
- Scholarships and Awards (Montgomery, Gorman-Lewis) - Update (1 min)
 - DEADLINE IS TODAY AT 11 PM. Meeting on Monday to start deliberations.

Business

Transition to eSITS (Environment shared information technology services)

Computing Support

- The department has contracted with the college's computing support.
- The director of eSITS, Michael Parker, provided an overview of eSITS services and philosophy for providing computing support. Discussed the benefits of shared services (e.g., cost efficiency, standardization and integration, scalability and flexibility, better governance, improved security and compliance). Briefly discussed how the shared services funding model works. eSITS provided an overview of how department costs are used (i.e., covering IT staff FTE).
- The Primary service scopes are: (1) General IT shared service - Admin staff computers and data; ESS faculty/staff/graduate student computers; IT systems and tech recommendations, purchasing, setup, deployment, surplus; classrooms and AV rooms, Ricoh printers; (2) Research Lab (PI) shared services - computers/equipment; and (3) High performance computing shared services (HYAK)
- **How do you get IT help?**
 - [eSITS Help Request Form](#)
 - my.environment.uw.edu
- **Meet and Greet with eSITS team - Tuesday 2/10, 10 a.m. JHN 141** with (limited) donuts and coffee!

Fed-Up Report

- Congress has passed a budget! Reaffirmed the negotiated F&A rates.
- Uncertainty remains as to how federal agencies will disperse funds
- State legislature likely to cut the UW's state support for next year

Cheney Fund undergrad trip to the AME Meeting

- John Stone took a group of undergrads (who are planning to take ESS 445 in the Spring) to Vancouver to attend the annual AME (Associate for Mineral Exploration) meeting. This was a chance for students to check out the mineral industry, which is currently booming with interest due to critical minerals. All five students had a job or internship offer by lunch time on the first day and they all came home with business cards. If you have any undergrads interested in mineral exploration or looking for summer internships, send them to John.

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:30 PM)