

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 10/2/26, 2:30 pm in JHN 170**

Open Session Minutes

[Attendance: Buick, Catling, Christianson, Condit, Crider, Denolle, Fudge, Gorman-Lewis, Huntington, Journaux, Krissansen-Totton, Lipovsky, McCarthy, Mehra, Montgomery, Muth, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Tobin, Walters, Waddington, Winebrenner. Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Caton, Lui, Johnson, Cowan, Genero]

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

Announcements

Accolades and General Announcements

- Accolades and Announcements (Schmidt)
 - Congratulations to the COLDEX2 team for 5 years of funding.
 - Several ESS members were awarded grants over the summer, including Michelle Muth, Shuai Yan, John Stone, and Marine Denolle.
 - Phase 1 of the Cold Lab freezer construction was completed and is running perfectly.
 - The Chem Library was finally demolished. Now we move to the construction phase.
- Dawg Dash is on Oct. 18 - [sign up for the College's team](#) to participate. Their booth will be in the red square with swag!
- Visas (Schmidt)
 - New visa rules were scheduled to start mid-Sept., currently blocked by a federal judge. All on hold.
 - Student visas would have a 4 year expiration; then apply for renewal
 - New rules would not allow students to change degree plan
 - Advisement to faculty and staff is to NOT advise students on visa issues. Send students to [UW International Student Services](#)
- Geoclub spring break - we are still looking for a Spring Break faculty trip leader. Please let David know if you are interested.
- eSITS (Lui)
 - Adobe Acrobat Pro is free to all faculty/staff/students. [Request form here.](#)
 - [Adobe Express](#) is free for students. Sign in with UW NetID.
 - Adobe Creative Cloud is available for students via UW bookstore, \$99 annual subscription.

- ESS HPC cluster (Gold, Lithium, Palladium, Platinum, Sodium, HPCFS (file server)) will be turned off on Dec. 19. Please archive any data that you may have on these machines.
- Technology purchasing
 - Given shortages of parts, there is a 4-6 weeks lead time for technology purchases (laptops/desktops), and a 25%-30% cost increases for 2027 for all the major computer manufacturers.
 - Lead time for servers is about 6 months.
- Printing
 - eSITS does not support printing on the plotter. If you need to print something, suggest using [Creative Communications](#). They have full plotters. Once the file is uploaded/submitted, they will print it in around 48 hours or less. Will deliver to department.
- Upcoming events (Caton)
 - [Oct. 12 - GSA Reception](#) for ESS members and alumni. Denver area alums are welcome, even if they are not attending the conference.
 - [Oct. 17 - ESS Open House](#)
 - [Nov. 5 - ESS Alumni Geology Wine Night](#)
 - Event hosted by Baptiste Journaux and Champion Wine Cellar. All WA and Portland Metro area alumni were invited. We are hoping to fill capacity (20 people). If you know any alum that may be interested, please invite them to [register](#)!
- 60-day reimbursement rule reminder (Caton)
 - Effective July 1, 2026 late reimbursements will be treated as taxable income. Reimbursement requests must be fully submitted and approved in TREQ, processed by eFAST, **AND** fully approved in Workday within 60 calendar days of the last day of travel or purchase date.
 - To allow time for review and processing, **please submit your reimbursement request with all necessary documentation by 30 days.** **However, we recommend starting the reimbursement process upon returning from travel or immediately after purchase.**
 - For conference registration/abstract fee, you can either submit your request within 60 days after purchase, or submit within 60 days after conference travel is complete.
- Grad Rep introductions (Johnson)
 - Sophie Johnson, Claire Jensen, Ben Lloyd, Emily Wilbur
 - Email essgreps@uw.edu - Gets forwarded to all of their emails.
 - Grad roles assigned two days ago and the Grad Reps will be reaching out to committees soon about assignments.

Standing Committees Announcements

Undergraduate Program (Duvall) - Update on Syllabus Guidelines and Resources

- Over the summer the registrar office [released new syllabus guidelines](#). There are some significant changes.
 - Religious accommodations language is required for syllabus. Some recommended sections for academic integrity, use of AI, incompletes. Sample language is available.
 - For use of AI, there is NO current UW-wide policy. Strongly encouraged to include information about use of AI in your course, talk clearly about expectations. Sample language for course-level AI policies is available.
- Reminder about digital accessibility. Lots of resources now. The best way to create an accessible syllabus is to use the tools in canvas that allow you to embed directly into canvas, using their headings and formatting.
- Memo #34: CoENV Course accessibility - meeting Disabilities Act Standards
 - Ally accessibility score in canvas needs to be 80% or higher. 63% of the 94 college published courses are there. 27% are at 70% or lower. Nine classes are under the 50% mark.
- Teaching support team (TST) at the College of the environment - resources are available
- Reminders for other best practices:
 - Respond to DRS emails in a timely manner.
 - Post your grading policies to CANVAS and follow them throughout the quarter.
 - Provide grades/feedback as the quarter progresses so that students have knowledge of their standing in the course before the end.
- [SafeCampus](#), 206-685-7233
 - Can always consult and partner with student services if there is an issue.
- New degree requirements - there is confusion. Despite working closely with the Dean's office and UW, the proposal for BS options did not go through the UW Curriculum Committee in the Spring. This has been resubmitted and will be reviewed at their first meeting.
 - The BA degree has been passed and is live for students declaring as of Autumn Quarter.
 - Students may have confusion about all of this. Feel free to send them to Student Services if they have questions.

Advancement & Engagement (Schmidt, Caton, 5 min)

- New endowment established for the Paros Geohazards Center. Focuses on the “development and exploitation of novel sensing technologies and the algorithms to analyze their signals related to numerous geohazards.”
- ESS has received a \$410k gift from the estate of Everett Paup
- New \$1M estate bequest signed this summer. Language simply states the gift is to benefit ESS graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. Money will likely not arrive for many years.
- Faculty need to converse over the next year, thinking about these gifts as seeds for the future. What as a department do we want to prioritize these funds for?

Colloquium (Huntington, Caton)

- Reminder to send Mindlin nominations to Summer (sacaton@uw.edu). The committee will present these at the November meeting. Also taking speaker suggestions for winter and spring.

Computing (Mehra)

- Short term items:
 - HPC needs for ESS students: we would like to put together a STF for a server that the ESS community can use for computation and “sandboxing”
 - Sunsetting: Henry has identified lots of servers that are unused and will slowly start the process of shutting them down. Henry will email if you are a user of such a server. You will be informed with plenty of lead time.
 - A request (and maybe a matter of policy?): Given the frequency of power outages/spikes, scientific equipment (including workstations) should be on a UPS.
- Long-term items:
 - Scientific computing needs: as always, the committee would like to understand what scientific computing looks like for the ESS community now and in the near future.
 - It would be good to know what support is needed from the department or college.
- Research computing with ATMOS: Reach out to Henry if interested in what this details. Most big computing groups have started this change.

Faculty Senate (Walters)

- Haven’t met yet. Note: plans to update conduct code (WA administrative code). This was put on hold. The president withdrew it. The Faculty senate will have a special meeting next week regarding this topic.

Prelim Exams (Muth, Crider)

- Will go over recommendations in the Exec session.

Business

Radiocarbon Lab (Schmidt, 5 min)

- The Dean's office has made a request to locate a new AMS facility in the ATG basement (ATG056), which would require repurposing ESS space. No decisions have been made; a proposal will be shared later in October, with faculty discussion and a vote planned for November. Potential research and student benefits noted, and efforts are underway to identify appropriate compensation or replacement space for affected users. Project led by Maureen Walczak (Oceanography). John Stone and Marjorie Cantine (plus other faculty and students) would benefit from this new facility.

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:18 PM)