

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 2/2/24, 2:30 pm in JHN 022**

MINUTES

[Attendance: Buick, Cantine, Catling, Crider, Crowell, Denolle, Duvall, Gorman-Lewis, Huntington, Krissansen-Totton, Lipovsky, Mehra, Muth, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Teng, Walters, Waddington, Winebrenner; Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Caton, Dakins, Aranguiz, Fintel, Wilbur, Garza (guest), Keil (guest), Desanto, Reusch D., Reusch M., Koepfli]

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

Announcements and Business

We are moving the March faculty meeting to March 8th.

15 minute presentation (with questions) from co-leaders of the College's [Strategic Plan Implementation Committee](#), Rick Keil & Corey Garza

- Planning is underway to enhance existing, and start new, college initiatives that will help strengthen collegiality, education, and research. The Dean has set aside money for community building.
- ESS community members provided several ideas for input including, solving the problems we already have, courses that serve broader group across College (math, machine learning), students take professors to lunch, inter-department lunches, holiday coffee or ice cream socials, college-wide seminar, faculty teaching together across College, College-wide graduate degree, centralized teaching support, see Advance program model for ideas, time blocked out to write together. **Please email the committee if you have more ideas!**
- The grad students would like College assistance (guidance, external analysis) on DEI initiatives such as a department-wide climate survey. **Recommend attending Corey's office hours.**

Update on ESS Chair Search (Caton/Steig)

- Joel Thornton (Atmos); Luanne Thompson (Ocean); David Butman (Civil environmental engineering); Drew Gorman-Lewis (ESS)
- Faculty (+ research scientists and staff) should look for an email next week inviting them to sign up. Each faculty member can have one 15-minute time slot. Please try to keep the meetings together with minimal breaks between them to best utilize the time of the committee members.

- The grad students will have (to start) two 30-minute time slots. Undergrad students will have one 30-minute slot. Postdocs will have 1 30-minute slot.
- Reach out to Summer (sacaton@uw.edu) about scheduling

Retreat Outcomes (Steig)

- Reminder that Chair was not at the retreat, but this is a summary of what he gathered from others' notes. Discussed future hiring, staffing, grad funding, grad curriculum, and big picture.
- Future Hiring - Urgent, supporting current strengths, new directions, breaking-down silos, societal relevance, cross-College connections. Concerns expressed that we often respond to urgency, neglecting supporting current strengths.
- Staffing - Idea to form a faculty committee to review challenges (financial/grants management support and reimbursement backlog) and understand staffing priorities and costs.
- Grad funding - Looking at different funding models and equity, with an eye towards summer funding.
- Big picture - Support faculty; reduce admin barriers; get curriculum in order; energy into advancement and fundraising

Old Oceanography Renovations (Steig)

- We have significant space there now, so this might be an opportunity for serious space in the future (e.g. Rock Storage Facility).

JHN 141 Renovation Update (Caton)

- Renovating to add kitchen, etc. happening soon (awaiting final estimate and approval). Grads and Undergrads look for an email next week about cleaning out 141. If you have a need for cabinets, please email Summer.

Call of volunteers ESS Open House (Caton)

- **Sunday April 21, 1-3:30 pm.** [Sign up to volunteer](#)

Prospective student welcome days (Bernard-Kingsley)

- Dates: **2/28-3/2**. Unfortunately this overlaps with the grad student retreat. **We need another faculty member to go on the Saturday (possibly Thurs!) field trip with Terry. Please email Noell.** Currently booking airfare, if you have a student you would like to admit please get in touch ASAP.

Grad Reps Update (Aranguiz-Rago)

- Thank you for reading our letter. The Grads appreciate recent efforts on addressing curriculum and mentoring concerns and would like to remain part of those discussions. Recent fireside chat (re: mentoring) went really well and they would like to do something similar for the curriculum.
- Faculty mentoring - fireside chat was great. Grads are concerned about absent rolls from advisors and miscommunication of expectations.
- "Mentorship is a professional, working alliance in which individuals work together over time to support personal and professional growth, development and success of the relationship partners through the provision of career and psychosocial support." CiMER
- Grads would like to start working on maintaining effective communications and aligning expectations. Tamara can share materials from the IDES program.

Standing Committees Announcements

Undergraduate Program (Gorman-Lewis)

- See slides - Course Materials and Sharing Policy - copyright (use symbol) your course materials so they cannot be uploaded to a website for students to access (exams, quizzes, etc.) will need to copyright every page. Include sharing policy on syllabus.

Admissions (including faculty report following grad student concerns about mentoring) (Huntington) - 198 applicants, have admitted 12 so far

- Report on the grad fireside chat, attended by grad students and Kate (admissions), Harold (DEI), Fangzhen (GPC), and Noell (student services). Noell sent a follow-up survey to grads.
- Key message: (1) students, go to GPC and Advising early with questions or to ask for support, and make sure the GPC is in the loop; (2) they heard the need to align language of prelim outcomes and admissions letters relevant to student funding and satisfactory progress (this week admissions clarified wording in admissions letters this year to help with this issue, and Exec Comm will discuss the more substantive changes); (3) examine our existing mentoring structures (like annual report etc) for opportunities to enforce and/or be more effective; (4) mentoring workshops
- Admission changes implemented include (1) emphasizing multi-year planning, including advising and funding support for current students, in admissions communications to faculty; (2) new requirement that all TA requests be approved by the Chair before admission; (3) new admissions proposal form process ensuring information about prospective student funding and project plans, including Chair's approval of TA request, is documented.

- Regarding the Welcome Days prospective student visit, grads are encouraged to be as candid as they are willing to be about their personal experience with their own advisor.

Advancement (Steig) - Short discussion on a plan to form an advisory board of alums and supporters to the department. **If you have an idea for a person to recommend, please let Eric know.** The committee is also looking at creating a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Curriculum (Crider)

- Proposed undergraduate curriculum changes. **Juliet will send out a link** to the spreadsheet with the suggested new tracks and details. **Please take a look and add comments.** The committee will propose an undergraduate curriculum update for formal faculty vote at the March 8 faculty meeting.
- Join the committee for another conversation this **Friday, Feb 9 from 2:30-3:30 pm in ATG 210.**

Computing (Lipovsky)

- PNSN is working on a reimbursement document using google sheets for submitting reimbursements. This will be adapted for all of ESS.
- The hiring window for the new comp staff position has closed and the process is moving forward.
- The College is thinking about either how to better use the Hyak program, or how to better spend the money that supports it (~\$50k/year). Input is welcome.
- Stephanie Harrington wants to know who is doing AI or machine learning work - high level federal funding is available, i.e. permanent funding in the federal budget to support something. **Talk to Brad to learn more.**

Diversity (DeSanto)

- The DEI Committee is considering avenues to run two department surveys - a demographic survey, and a climate survey hopefully by the end of Spring quarter. They are assessing what resources are available and agree that ideally, a neutral third party would review answers. Chair has also already talked with Associaie Dean for Diversity, Corey Garza, and recommends taking advantage of his expertise (this is his job): The committee will be reaching out to Garza.

Policy (Krissansen-Totton) - present new ICR policy for consideration

- Committee will send out the full policy, please provide feedback. They will have a revised version to look at during the March meeting.

Adjourn to Executive Session (4:30 PM)

