

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 3/8, 2:30 pm in JHN 022**

MINUTES

[In attendance: Buick, Catling, Christianson, Crider, Crowell, Denolle, Duvall, Gorman-Lewis, Huntington, Journaux, Lipovsky, Muth, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Teng, Tobin, Waddington, Winebrenner, Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Caton, Dakins, Ledeczi, Aranguiz, Fintel, Reusch D., Reusch M., Ott, Aikin, Gomberg]

Call to Order - Open Session (2:32 PM)

Announcements and Business

- **Addressing the tragedy of the commons in ESS (Steig)**
 - Discussed the need to properly maintain our spaces in ATG and JHN. ATG 056 is off limits for use right now. For those who know they have items stored in this room, please clearly label them “keep” or “surplus”. It is best practice to never put things in places without first discussing with Mike Harrell and the current Chair (and, if known, the owner of the room).
 - Going forward, we must have a single dedicated PI for this room, and for the Rock Prep room. Discussed the need for a sustainable labor and funding model for the Rock Prep lab.
 - There are dumpsters at the ATG loading dock, please feel empowered to use them (for non-UW property garbage). **NOTE** - by law, all unwanted University property must be surplus, regardless of condition.
 - [How to Surplus Unneeded Items](#) - Department Surplus Guide
 - IsoLab appears to be widely perceived as an open lab, or a “department facility”, perhaps because it has four PIs. This perception is making it hard for the PIs that support the lab to get their own research done. IsoLab was co-founded by Eric Steig and Roger Buick, by Becky Alexander and Kate Huntington at their invitation. It is devoted to these specific faculty members’ research (and funded by their grants). Faculty should make sure they and their students and postdocs understand that just like any other research lab, they need permission from the PIs to do any work in the lab. In general, the lab is too busy to support work that the PIs are not themselves directly involved in. Roger Buick is the current director and the first point of contact for those interested in collaborating with this group.

- **ESS Research Gala** (Gala Committee)
 - March 26-29. See the [Gala Website](#) and how to support the Gala through a crowd-funded [TogetherUW Fundraising campaign](#). **Please share this link!**
- **Undergrad research spreadsheet** (Grad Reps, presenting on behalf of Undergrad/Grad Community Relations Committee)
 - If you have research opportunities for undergrads, quarter or summer, etc., please fill out the [ESS Undergrad Research Opportunities Form](#)
- **Curriculum:** Presentation and vote to proceed with proposed changes to the undergraduate major requirements. (Crider)
 - Can request slides. Discussed the proposed changes to undergraduate curriculum major options.
 - **Motion:** Approve and implement the proposed changes to the Geology, Biology and Geosciences options
 - Motion Tobin seconds
 - **Vote: 20/0/0**
 - Capstone includes summer field course, paleontology summer field course, piloting three-course lab rotation. There are also options to participate in field camps elsewhere.
 - The introductory course will likely be kept in the Winter quarter. Michelle Muth and Juliet Crider will rotate teaching responsibility.
 - **Motion:** Approve and implement the proposed changes to the physics option, pending final discussions on staffing the capstone seminar
 - Motion Lipovsky, Tobin second
 - **Vote: 19 yes / 0 no / 1 abstain**
 - New capstone seminar – opportunity for seniors to work together in project-oriented class. Led by a rotating panel of faculty.
 - It will take over a year for this to work through the University system and there will be contingency plans for students declaring before and after this takes effect.
 - **Motion:** Approve and implement the new Data Science option, pending final discussions on staffing the capstone seminar.
 - Motion Denolle, Swanson
 - **Vote: 19/0/0**
 - Discussed concerns for staffing courses – most required courses are already in place and being taught.
- **Presentation by Geomorphology faculty search committee of draft job ad language for discussion** (Huntington)
 - Can request slides for draft ad language. Revised ad for review and vote at the April faculty meeting.

- Assistant professor tenure track, one position. October 1, 2024 priority application deadline. Campus interviews January 2025.
- Discussed the job ad and the reasoning behind committee decisions on language. Feedback included: placement of “field-oriented”, adding “planetary” to “processes of shaping Earth surfaces”, adding cryosphere processes to contributions to interdisciplinary research, is technology adequately captured in the language, and more.
- Discussed when to ask for letters of reference. General consensus after discussion was to ask for letters after an application is submitted (~1-7 days after).
- Please reach out to Kate with further questions and feedback.

Standing Committees Announcements

- **Undergraduate Program (Gorman-Lewis)** - Reminder that April 17th is prospective transfer student day. Be on the lookout for an email.
- **Graduate Program (Teng)** - Update on discussion at College GPC last month
 - Table 1: Grad student salary by department.
 - Discussed increasing the salary for the premaster/intermediate stage and candidate state, which would encourage students to take their general exams earlier. Generally agreed upon to wait until after UW negotiations with the graduate student union.
 - Table 2: How many quarters of funding for incoming PhD students?
 - ESS only guarantees three quarters, but most other units guarantee all four, including a summer salary. This affects the strength of offer letters and is something the department would like to consider.
 - In other units, funding all four quarters is largely the PI's responsibility. Depending on TAs is not sustainable, as TA support is decreasing, and there are few classes to TA in the summer quarter. In ATM and OCN, for faculty members to accept a PhD student they must have grant funding already existing to support that student for a full year from the start.
 - The department needs to figure out a long term structural solution. Is it possible to use donor funds/awards? Depends on restrictions.
- **Admissions (Huntington)** - 198 applicants and admitted 17. 14 prospective students visited last week, as of this faculty meeting no one has accepted.

- **Advancement (Steig)** - List of potential names for proposed external Advisory Board. Eric will send this out.
 - Discussed the potential names and several people would like further details on the term length and procedure for rotating on and off the board.
 - Profs. Duvall and Tobin shared their experiences (pros and cons) with advisory boards at University of Michigan and University of Washington-Madison.
 - Hoping to have the board in place to invite members to the 130th Anniversary Celebration this fall.

- **College Council Representative (Schmidt)** - Regular report
 - **Please search your inboxes for an email from Stephanie Harrington** regarding a vote on a policy to update ranks for the College Council, and to fill at large positions. Steven Walters is on the ballot. There is another week to complete that voting. **Please vote!**
 - If you are going up for promotion or tenure, the College Council is refining guidance information. Ask David for the slight changes.
 - David Schmidt is at the end of his 3rd year term and we need a new department representative on the council. This needs to be decided in the Spring. David is happy to share information with anyone interested.

Adjourn to Executive Session (4:30 PM)