

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, 5/31/24, 2:30 pm in JHN 111**

OPEN MINUTES

[In Attendance: Buick, Cantine, Condit, Crider, Crowell, Denolle, Duvall, Gorman-Lewis, Huntington, Journaux, Krissansen-Totton, Lipovsky, McCarthy, Mehra, Muth, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Teng, Walters. Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Caton, Dakins, Lui, Reusch M., Ledeczi, Aranguiz-Rago, Fintel, Kopfli, Maurer, Johnson, Wilbur, Grossman, Manos, Fan, Ghent, Lindquist, Nodal, Downey.]

Open Session Start: 2:32 PM

Announcements

- Update on undergraduate curriculum conversation (Crider, 2 minutes)
 - The main themes that came out of this conversation were thoughtful scheduling, what does the curriculum look like, what is the vision for the future? Undergrads are also interested in more facetime with the rest of the department.
 - Discussed the need to evaluate expectations of GeoClub and how this club (now an RSO) interacts with the rest of the department.
- MESSAGE Announcement (Crider, <1 min)
 - Kathy Troost will be retiring—therefore the MESSAGE program is indefinitely paused.
- Prof. Fangzhen Teng has been elected a GSA Fellow.
- Reminder from safety committee - if you are doing field work this summer outside a course, it is still required/encouraged to have a formal safety plan. Register trip with Kristin (point person) and Scott.

New Business

- Student Salaries (Steig + Grad Reps, 10 minutes)
 - Can request slides
 - Discussed the current financial picture of our students in regards to rent/financial burden. Went over four possible salary increase scenarios, with the students endorsing Scenario 3.

- Undergraduate research opportunities (Wilbur & Fintel, 4 minutes)
 - There is a **form** available for faculty, postdocs, and grad students to fill out if they are interested in mentoring undergraduates for research opportunities. It is okay if you do not have a project in mind and you can say you are open to being contacted.

Standing Committees Announcements

Undergraduate Program (Gorman-Lewis) - announcement on course offerings and teaching planning (2-3 minutes)

- One of the various stresses undergrads have is about future course offerings and knowing ahead of time what classes are going to be available to them.
- As people check in with you (faculty) about your teaching over the next 5-6 quarters, please make it a priority to respond ASAP. If there are outstanding issues about what you are teaching, resolve them ASAP. The sooner we are able to project 2 years out, the better we can communicate with students.

Graduate Program (Teng) - regular report (10 minutes)

- Please send Summer + Fangzhen your student publications (see email on 6/3/24 for details on format, etc.). We would like to get as many as possible on the website before the 130th Anniversary Celebration in September.
- Fangzhen and his students are putting together a list of potential student funding awards at the college/university level and external to UW (AGU/GSA/NASA, government, etc.). This document will be shared with incoming and current graduate students.
- There will be workshops for incoming and new students on Grad Fellowships.
- **Grad Student Activity Reports are due.** From now on we will do IDP, which is a much better way to monitor progress.
- If students in their 5th year this fall have not yet completed their general exam, they need to ask their committee to submit a written request to the GPC for an extension (per the General Exam Policy). If in their 6th year, make sure your GSAR has a report of when you will graduate.

Admissions (Huntington) - Faculty vote to adopt ESS admissions rubric (5 min)

- **Motion: Vote to adopt ESS admissions rubric (Steig, Mehra)**
- **Vote: 19/0/1**

Curriculum (Denolle) - update (4 minutes)

- Expect updates in Fall 2024 on undergraduate curriculum.
- Grad curriculum - started discussing.

- ESS 594 - Noell sent a survey about what students would like to see in this course, 16 people responded so far. Please provide your feedback and ideas.
- Working on cleaning up the course catalog on the website and at UW level (this will take time). Marine will make a spreadsheet of all classes offered and will reach out to professors asking if/when a class will be offered.
- Discussion about redefining research seminar classes.
- Created and sent out a survey about TA experiences. Differences in workload, type of expectations from grading, labs, and field trips. We want a transparent view of how demanding courses are to evaluate if a course needs a full TA or a grader. This way we can match classes offered with the correct TA needs.
- Discussion in the works on a 5th year Master Degree. There are a lot of students that could benefit from an additional year. This would also increase enrollment in grad classes and create opportunities for ESS grads to be exposed to more breadth of classes.
- Graduate curriculum discussion on June 14 at 2:30 PM. Students invited to come.

Colloquium (Mehra) - announcement (2 minutes)

- Fangzhen and Cailey are on the committee starting in the Fall.
- We will be going back to the pre-pandemic norm of inviting only a couple external (flight required) speakers per quarter. Please nominate ([nomination submission form](#), also on [intranet 'Documents and Forms'](#)) internal speakers within ESS (faculty, postdocs, grads, PhD defenses), ESS affiliate/adjunct faculty, QRC, and collaborators within the College and wider UW. Local speakers from the Seattle area, and wider WA/PNW that can drive are welcome. This is an opportunity to build community within the department, College/UW, and to build/grow relationships with local academics and professionals. **If you have a collaborator coming to visit (or for petrolunch/seismolunch/etc., please let the colloquium committee know!**
- Cailey and Akshay are working on a proposal for funding the DSL speaker series for the College/Advancement. If you have ideas/thoughts/etc. Please reach out to them.

Prelim (Schmidt, Muth) - announcement (3 minutes)

- Ran information session for faculty. All advisors for students going through prelim this year were present. Same slides that were presented to students in ESS 594. Talked about best practices for mentoring students for prelim.
- Michelle, Fangzhen, David and Noell will continue to make edits to the guide.

Open Session Close: 3:31 PM