

Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, 9 January 2009
3:30pm, 111 Johnson Hall

Minutes

Present: Abramson, Bachmann, Bandfield, Bodin, Booker, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Cowan, Creager, Gillespie, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Hansen, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Sletten, Swanson, Vidale, Waddington, Winebrenner, Winglee (chair), Wood, Prager, Gomberg
Students: Kayzar, Morgan, Cruchon
Staff: Fernkes, Gray, McDannald, Mercer

Call to Order - Meeting of Faculty in Open Session

Winglee called the open session to order.

Approval of Minutes

The open session minutes of the 11/07/08 and 12/05/08 faculty meeting were unanimously approved.

Announcements

The faculty meeting time may change back to 2:30 p.m. if we are able to secure a room. In the interim, meetings will be held from 3:30 p.m. to approximately 5:00 p.m. The all-College faculty meeting on January 14th will be postponed due to difficulties finding a room.

The December U.S. News report on top graduate programs in the U.S. ranked our department 11th (with Princeton, UCLA, and Yale), and in Geology alone the department ranked 10th. In addition, we are the highest ranked science program at the University of Washington.

Janina ("Nina") Klaus was appointed Research Associate (Ph.D., 2008, Isotope Geochemistry, University of Gottingen) and is working with Bachmann on laser ablation techniques.

Reports and Business

Undergraduate Program (Roe)

no report

Graduate Program (Waddington)

no report

Standing Committees:

Admissions (Cowan)

There were 146 applications and the deadline was January 2, 2009. There are binders with applications in the conference room and each represent one of the sub disciplines. Cowan invited appropriate faculty to review files and give feedback. He also advised that committee members will be contacting individual faculty. The committee will send out letters of invitation by February 6th for the open house that is scheduled for February 26th and 27th, so please give your feedback soon. Some faculty responded to the committee canvas that they would not be able to support any students, but if an outstanding student wants to work with a particular faculty, the committee will work with that faculty member. Winglee advised faculty to act like it is any other year when reviewing admission candidates in spite of the troubling economic news.

Computing (Bodin)

Winglee announced that a prototype of the new ESS website redesign might be online soon.

Curriculum (Brown/Stone)

no report

Development (Winglee)

Acknowledgement of new graduate student support endowments was announced:
Bourgeois – *Jody Bourgeois Graduate Student Support Fund* (field-based research)
Crosson – Robert & Mary Crosson Endowed Graduate Student Support Fund (fellowship)
Harnett – *Space Physics Fellowship* (space physics grad student fellowship)
Waddington – BTK Endowed Graduate Support Fund (fellowship)

Oversight (Bodin/Steig)

Report will be given at a spring quarter faculty meeting.

Prelim (W08-A08: Booker/Gillespie)

Report will be presented in the Executive Session today.

Promotion, Reappointment & Merit (Creager/Gillespie)

no report

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards (Buick/Bergantz)

no report

New Business

Teaching Matrix, 2009-2010 (Bourgeois)

The Autumn Quarter 2009 matrix is close to completed. Bourgeois asked faculty to share their teaching commitments with each other, including long term goals, what courses to offer, what courses will be shared.

Winglee reminded faculty that courses with low enrollment will be reviewed since there is a strong push to increase enrollment. Question: how small is low enrollment? Winglee answered that if you have only one course with five or six enrolled, but many others are enrolled in your other course (s), that's okay. Question: What should be our priorities? 100 level? 200 level? Winglee answered that our first priority is towards our majors. If all courses are full in the lower levels, then mix and match and help out where possible.

Bourgeois reported the deadline for the fall 2009 teaching matrix is February 6th, then they will begin working on the winter and spring matrix. Winglee mentioned that sabbatical requests will be reviewed more slowly, it's unknown when or if requests will be approved. Salary retention increases will be delayed also.

Old Business

Molecular Engineering Building – Update (Winglee)

If the stimulus package is passed by the legislature, then the construction of the MoleE Bldg. will occur. So expect construction around Johnson Annex to occur in the near future.

UW/A&S Budgetary Situation & College of the Environment – Update (Winglee)

Budget: In Autumn quarter, the governor asked UW to project what a 20% cut would look like and delivered a 13% budget cut instead. The UW President is determined to put pressure on the legislature to change their minds. The College of the Environment (CoEnv): RCEP (Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs) is a process to move us from A&S to the new college, which has not yet been initiated. Winglee sent a letter (again) to the Dean of A&S and CEnv reiterating the department's budgetary conditions had to be addressed before RCEP would be initiated. Details are still to be worked out. The chair reported on the advantages and disadvantages of staying within A&S.

The faculty discussed future options in doling out TA positions and will decide at a later date.

Brown stated that the Governance and Vision Committee has met with the President and the Provost and asked them how they would continue with the CoEnv in the midst of budget cuts. They responded strongly that the CoEnv will happen with six core departments for decades to come.

Winglee reiterated the process of RCEP. The Dean won't initiate until the Chair submits a formal written request to the Dean. Winglee asked if faculty wanted to authorize a letter initiating RCEP should the financial issues be resolved. Brown motioned to authorize the letter, 22 faculty were in favor and one abstained.

Adjournment

Prof. Winglee adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.