

**Dept. of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, 6 February 2009
2:30pm, 175 Johnson Hall**

Minutes

Present: Abramson, Bachmann, Bandfield, Bergantz, Bodin, Booker, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Cowan, Creager, Gillespie, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Hansen, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, Odom, Matsuoka, McCallum, McCarthy, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Roe, Sletten, Stone, Swanson, Vidale, Waddington, Warren, Winglee (chair), Wood, Prager, Gomberg, Students: Kayzar, Morgan, Walsh
Staff: Fernkes, Gray, 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 1/09/09 faculty meeting were unanimously approved.

Announcements

Debbie Mercer will be taking over academic affairs duties from D.Ellen and can be contacted at assistant@ess.washington.edu.

There will be a party for D.Ellen on February 25, 2009 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the QRC Library (room 337A).

We have a new undergraduate student representative attending Faculty meetings; please welcome Lucy Walsh who will be replacing Suzie Cruchon.

Reports and Business

Undergraduate Roe)

no report

Graduate Program (Waddington)

There is nothing specific to report on the Graduate School Dean Search but they have posted a new organization chart with the graduate students and faculty at the center. The NRC comparative report from 2007 on graduate programs will hopefully be coming out in about a month. Departments will not be individually ranked, but will be grouped into classes (i.e., top 5%, 5-10%, etc.). There will be a workshops held on the 19th for graduate students & post-docs in the morning and a workshop in the afternoon for faculty advisors. If interested, please see the graduate school website:

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/pff/events07/08events.htm#conflict>

There has been a change to the Grad School's Thesis rules; the library will only check the first 5 pages for format and no longer reviews appearance of Students' Theses and Dissertations. Students' faculty committees are now responsible for determining appearance, including measuring margins.

Standing Committees:

Admissions (Cowan)

Cowan reported that 23 prospective graduate students have been invited to the ESS Open House on February 26th and 27th. So far, 11 have confirmed. All faculty, graduate students, and staff are invited to attend the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 26th. It will be held at the WAC (Water Activities Center). Please bring side dishes and desserts to share with everyone.

Computing (Bodin)

no report

Curriculum (Brown/Stone)

no report

Development (Winglee)

Endowment balances are lower than typical at this time of year. The regents are reviewing endowments and we are waiting for their report, but we are assuming a budget cut.

Oversight (Bodin/Steig)

Report will be given at a spring quarter faculty meeting.

Prelim (W08-A08: Booker/Gillespie)

no report

Promotion, Reappointment & Merit (Creager/Gillespie)

no report

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards (Buick/Bergantz)

no report

New Business

no report

Old Business

UW/A&S Budgetary – Update (Winglee)

We won't know the actual budget cuts until about May. In order to prepare, Winglee proposed two areas where cuts can be made, telephones and printing. If you have telephones that you are not using, please inform the Administrator. A question was raised about providing a voice mail service by extension number. This option will be looked into further. Winglee asked that everyone avoid printing particularly in color if possible. A question regarding grants covering the cost of cartridges and printing was raised; however printer cartridges are not allowable on grants. Suggestions to inform other faculty, staff and students about the cost of printing were made as well as a suggestion to place stickers on the printers with the cost of printing advertised on them.

The college is still running the 10% budget cut scenario. Robert gave details about the College of Arts & Sciences plan for the 12.5 million cut. ESS will be running sections at 28 rather than 24. The core classes will remain as they are, but the higher division courses with marginal enrollment will no longer have T.A. positions. Houston asked why the UW needs to keep up student hours when facing a large budget cut. Winglee emphasized our duty is to maximize utilization our resources for the next two years as a compromise. Winglee reported that a couple of non-science major courses will be dropped. Bourgeois suggested talking with friends, neighbors, and university personnel to argue why our programs are essential during these tough economic times. Holzworth commented on the plan for Bellevue Community College to become a four-year university that might be new competition for us. Kayzar wanted clarification on the cuts to T.A.'s. Winglee answered that all effort would be made to provide requested TAs. Creager asked if the R.A. money could be used for T.A. positions. Winglee R.A. money cannot be used for TAs.

Situation & College of the Environment – Update (Winglee)

Winglee compared the potential 10% budget cut to ESS in the College of Arts & Science with the prospective cuts on entering the College of the Environment (CoEnv). We have been assured that ESS would not receive any greater cut than in A&S, and there was a slight potential for the resumption of the frozen search though that was dependent on the severity of the final budget cuts. The faculty discussed the various pros and cons to initiating RCEP (Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs) and the plan that has been initiated by the College's Vision and Governance Committee. There was concern that vision in the plan was binding. Brown as a representative of the committee assured faculty that the process is just beginning and invited feedback to be sent to him. Winglee asked faculty for feedback on the request that ESS maintains a joint department with the College of A&S. This would eliminate the need for a double degree and allow students to keep double majors. A motion was made and seconded to authorize Winglee to request that the Dean of A&S initiate RCEP with an acceptable financial plan [43 eligible; 25 yes, 2 no, 3 abstained, 13 absent]. A second motion was made that if ESS joins the CoEnv, then ESS shall remain a joint department with the College of A&S to maintain current degrees and majors and allow continued development of the Integrated Science Degree [43 eligible; 30 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained, 13 absent].

Adjournment

Prof. Winglee adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.