

**Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, March 13, 2009 - 2:30pm, 175 Johnson Hall**

Minutes

Present: Bachmann, Bandfield, Bodin, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Gillespie, Gonzalez, Gorman-Lewis, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Odom, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Roe, Sletten, Stone, Swanson, Waddington, Warren, Winebrenner, Winglee (chair), Wood, Brand
Students: 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 2/06/09 faculty meeting were unanimously approved.

Announcements

Robert thanked everyone who participated in the voluntary reduction of phones. The Department will save \$15,000 a year (1/3 reduction) in phone operating costs. This is equivalent to 3 T.A. Quarters.

A notice was sent out regarding the lead bricks that have become available in ATG 056A. These are radiation free. Please contact Robert if you would like to salvage any of these.

A speaker for Commencement 2009 is needed; any suggestions for potential speakers (usually Alumni) should be forwarded to Robert for consideration.

Reports and Business

Undergraduate (Roe) – No report

Graduate Report (Waddington) – No report

Standing Committees:

Admissions (Cowan)

We have accepted 32 students. Six declined, one deferred, three accepted. One of those three that accepted has been offered the PCC fellowship. Waddington asked what advice the Admissions Committee would give those who have already made offers. Cowan advised that we still have a couple of signing bonuses or RAs available and please contact the committee if you'd like to utilize those. It was noted that the committee has done a great job. Cowan acknowledged the help of the student services staff.

Computing (Bodin) – No report

Curriculum (Brown)

Brown gave a presentation that summarized the committee's work in reviewing the undergraduate program. The committee's current focus is on the transition into the College of the Environment and the review of our current goals since it has been ten years since the last major restructuring of the undergraduate program.

One issue discussed was the 90 credit limit we currently have on required courses. Most other universities have more than 90 credits required and the transition to the College of the Environment is an opportunity to reconstruct a degree program. Brown discussed program assessment in light of the decadal requirements and accreditation requirement that will be coming soon. The committee suggests that there be more consideration of learning objectives for degrees and individual courses and that we evaluate goals as we have described them to majors. Brown provided an example of other institution's goals and there was discussion. Winglee cautioned faculty on increasing the credit limit because there will be consequences like impediment to students wishing to double degree. Bourgeois suggested this could be dealt through advising.

Another suggestion the committee made was for implementing the concept of portfolios. Nationally and internationally, digital portfolios have become standard. The portfolios would consist of posters, notebooks, etc. that are used as evaluation tools. This would establish a new level of commitment to assessing students' learning. Most were favorable to the idea. It is more formal and ensures communication.

Brown presented the committee's final recommendations. Winglee asked for a timeline. The 200 level faculty will meet this Spring. It was stated that we need a working copy ready by the end of Spring Quarter in preparation for RSEP.

Bourgeois reported that next Academic year matrix is finished and asked faculty to contact her if they had questions about their teaching duties next year.

Development (Winglee)

Endowments are down and the Board of Regents appears split on how to proceed. Either they'll decide to protect the base or spent the capital. Winglee asked for a report from a Faculty Senate representative on the status of the 2% annual raise. Stone mentioned that the President of the University makes the call. Washington state government wants faculty to abstain from the raise. The final decision will be made by President Emmert on Monday, March 16. Winglee mentioned that the status of increases associated with promotions had not been determined.

Oversight (Bodin/Steig) – No report

Prelim – AU08 (Booker/Gillespie) – No report

Promotion, Reappoint. & Merit (Creager/Gillespie) – No Report

Scholarships, Fellowships, & Awards (Buick/Berganz) – No Report

New Business

Space Grant Outreach Programs (Winglee)

PI's with NASA grants that have EPO invitations are allowed to pool together with other PI's and submit one proposal. This would allow for a larger budget up to \$45,000.

One example of what EPO funds can be used for is the "Rock'ing Out" program. Winglee asked faculty with qualified NASA grants and interest to contact him.

Old Business

UW/A&S Budgetary Situation – Update (Winglee)

The House is recommending a deeper cut (about 20%) than the governors. We don't know what the Senate is recommending. Both the College of Arts & Sciences and the College of the Environment will introduce metrics. We are still required to do annual reports. Winglee asked junior faculty to continue with full annual reports for promotional reasons. Holzworth stated that if the faculty don't get raises this year or the next, everyone should make an effort to review the previous 2 to 3 years when reviews will include raises.

Molecular Engineering Building Update

Paul Bodin provided a photo of the Molecular Engineering Building's design and placement next to Johnson. It was requested that it be put on the ESS website for viewing.

College of the Environment – Update (Winglee)

RSEP has been initiated. The letter initiating RSEP will be distributed to the faculty.

Adjournment – Professor Winglee adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.