

**Department of Earth and Space Sciences  
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session  
Friday, April 10, 2009 - 2:30pm, 175 Johnson Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Bachmann, Bandfield, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Gillespie, Gonzalez, Gorman-Lewis, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Odom, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Roe, Sletten, Stone, Swanson, Vidale, Waddington, Warren, Winebrenner, Winglee (chair), Wood, Brand

Students: Morgan, Walsh

Staff: Fernkes, Gray, Mercer

Absent: Anderson, Bodin, Buick, Conway, Hallet, Hernandez, Mercer, Montgomery, Nelson, Nesbitt, Odom, Sletten, Swanson, Ward, Winebrenner

**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 3/13/09 faculty meeting were unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

Pacific Science Center Event (Harnett) – Professor Bandfield and graduate students will be involved in a Pacific Science Center event. Posters have been posted around the building. Harnett invited those interested to attend and thanked those who have volunteered.

Student Services Summer & Autumn Quarter Coverage (Winglee) – Fernkes is pregnant and will be gone on maternity leave this summer through October. Amara Simons will also be gone mid July to mid August.

ESS Events (Winglee) – Please mark your calendars for the following events:

ESS Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 21 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in JHN-102

ESS End-of-the-Year BBQ on Wednesday, June 3 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the JHN Courtyard

ESS Graduation Celebration on Saturday, June 13 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in JHN-102

**Reports and Business**

**Undergraduate Program** (Roe) – No report

**Graduate Program Report** (Waddington)

Amara Simons and he are requesting the formation of Supervisory Committees for Graduate Students. It has been 6 months since the last estimate of funding and support plans, so expect to hear from the Graduate Program Committee once admissions if finalized.

## **Standing Committees:**

### **Admissions** (Cowan)

Out of 148 applications, we have made 38 offers. 26 were invited to the open house. Nichole has been looking at comparisons from previous years, but no official report was made. Cowan mentioned that the National Science Foundation has yet to announce the recipients of Graduate Support grants, and that may influence the number of acceptances we receive. Winglee asked that faculty try to reduce the number of late visitors and acceptances next year as the cost of travel increases. It was noted that it is difficult to know before meeting with the individual graduate students. Cowan thanked the faculty who have taken the time to contact potential graduate students. Winglee thanked Darrel and Nichole for a job well done.

### **Computing** (Bodin) – No report

### **Curriculum** (Stone for Brown)

All of the 200 level core instructors have met and discussed gaps and overlaps in courses. The Curriculum committee plans to contact and meet next with the 200L and 300L core instructors, then with 300L core instructors to discuss gaps and overlaps.

### **Development** (Winglee)

Board of Regents have met and are implementing reductions in the pay out of 25% this year and an addition 25% next year for a total of about 40% reduction over the next two years. Our department keeps a buffer, so that the reduction overall will only be 10% relative to last year. Perhaps the following year will be another 10%. The amount that actually goes to an RA will probably increase another 10%, so the total number of RA quarters available will decrease by a total of about 20% for this year.

**Oversight** (Bodin/Steig) – No report – Judi Gray has the information available for this year usage

**Prelim** – AU08 (Booker/Gillespie) – No report

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

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

## **New Business**

### **Faculty Senate Elections** (Winglee)

An e-mail with a voting ballot was sent out to faculty. Winglee asked for volunteers. Once we have two volunteers, an e-mail will be sent to faculty. The votes are due Wednesday, April 29, 2009.

### **Strategic Plan for ESS** (Winglee)

A strategic plan is required from the Department as we begin our transition into the College of the Environment. An e-mail with an initial draft was sent to all faculty; comments and suggestions were requested. Winglee reviewed the initial draft with the faculty, beginning with last year's hiring priorities. Winglee will update it to include the future lack of funding for new hires, the increase in student scheduled hours versus the decrease in faculty numbers. A suggestion for the mission statement was made that ESS's emphasis be our commitment to increasing knowledge in the core sciences and in addition, our commitment to the study of the environment. Another suggestion to

stress the need for additional research faculty was made. Winglee requested that feedback be returned to him by April 13, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Strategic Plan subject to revisions. All faculty present were in favor [42 eligible; 27 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained, 15 absent].

## **Old Business**

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

Winglee explained how the budgets are still in flux and discussed the two separate budgets mentioned in the news. Please contact your legislators, but do not use the University of Washington resources to do so. Winglee discussed the budgetary impact of tuition increases to 14%. He suggested that we wait until the dust settles before making plans. Everyone will be kept up to date on this issue. Winglee suggested that if possible, faculty should post their class papers and notes on a class website to try and reduce the cost of printing.

### **College of the Environment – Update (Winglee)**

Winglee forwarded an e-mail to faculty with a memo from the Dean of Arts & Sciences that discussed the move towards quantitative methods. This was followed by a memo from the Provost to the Dean. Cuts would be based on learning, discover, excellence impact and visibility. Winglee will provide statistics, but the pressure remains on us to keep classes full and turn reports in a timely manner. No comments or questions were presented.

The RCEP letter was sent out. It is believed that Oceanography and Aquatic Fishery Sciences will join later since their letters were sent out too late to join July 1, 2009. They will most likely join near the end Autumn Quarter. A question was raised about the e-mail forwarded to faculty regarding the Dean of Arts & Sciences' decision on ESS remaining joint Department after our move to the College of the Environment. The Dean did not see any value in retaining ESS as a joint department, but that we could still plan on continuing the Integrated Science Program and double degrees could be worked out across the two colleges. Some discussion about other departments that hold joint status occurred.

A question about the search for the Dean of the College of the Environment was raised. Winglee reported that there is currently no search. It is believed though that a donor has provided funds for support of a new top-level Dean.

### **Molecular Engineering Building Update**

The planning for the building is still underway, but no one knows if they will begin construction any time soon.

**Adjournment** – Professor Winglee adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.