

**University of Washington**  
**Department of Earth and Space Sciences**  
**Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session**  
**Friday, January 7, 2011 – 2:30pm, 022 Johnson Hall**

Department Chair Robert Winglee called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of 12/3/10 Open Session minutes**

The draft minutes were circulated for review and no revisions were received. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously by the quorum of faculty present.

**Meeting synopsis:**

1. Announcements
2. Reports and Business
3. New Business
4. Old Business
5. Adjournment

**1. Announcements**

- Chair Winglee turned the floor over to ESS Gala representatives Bret Buskirk and Osa Igbinosun. They announced that the Annual ESS Gala would be held March 31 and April 1, 2011. Oral presentations would be in the mornings and poster sessions in the afternoons, with a banquet and awards ceremony on Friday evening from 5:00pm to 10:00pm. They asked for volunteers from the faculty to serve on the awards committee. Swanson, Crider, Gorman-Lewis, and Steig. Huntington suggested also adding Gary Gray from Exxon-Mobile to the committee, as he did an excellent job last year.

**2. Reports and Business**

- *Undergraduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Graduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Admissions* – Cowan informed the faculty that as of January 5<sup>th</sup> there were 107 completed applications and 184 total, a substantial increase from last year. He asked that faculty be available to review the student application files. He commended Nathan and Noell on their collaborative efforts on the application website. Cowan said the site is excellent and that he'll send a link around to the faculty so that they can view it as well. Winglee noted that if you need TA support for a student to please contact him promptly as TA funds have been reduced dramatically. There was a discussion among faculty members regarding the current admissions process and whether or not to change the order of the open house prior to accepting students to ESS. A motion was made to continue with the current scenario, 12 votes for, 9 against, no abstentions. Winglee suggested revisiting this discussion after the admissions process this year to see if it needs adjustment. He advised faculty to screen students thoroughly to ensure that they will be a good fit for ESS.
- *Computing* – nothing to report.
- *Curriculum* –

- Brown reported that he will report early in Winter Quarter on the graduate response to the survey concerning courses.
- There is also concern on the continuity of the prelim process from year to year – main items of contention are the process and there is concern over categories (i.e. “pass” and “pass with distinction”). About half of the students are passed directly to PhD program and the rest are given option to continue with master’s work and be reconsidered for PhD later. Brown noted that other departments separate the process. The Curriculum Committee is going to make a recommendation that a partial cure is to establish a more definitive rubric for the prelim process. Brown reported that the oral presentation is a just fraction of what the prelim process should be. The Committee would like to see a more critical evaluation of examinees. Grad Student Representative David Argento would like to see well-defined expectations and felt this would be the most helpful toward the students. After a lengthy discussion among faculty, Chair Winglee proposed new categories be defined as: Pass – Pass w/entry to PhD – Pass w/conditions – Retake – Fail
- Winglee reminded faculty that the department no longer guarantees RA/TA support for master’s students and noted that ESS is going to launch Professional MS Program soon.
- ESS 212 and 311 are enrolled at record levels. Partly due in part to increase in majors as well as a shift in major requirements as well. It was noted that other departments are launching 100-level courses to compete with ABB modeling. Some faculty pointed out that it is too difficult to find the ESS classes the way ESS is appearing in the schedule. Winglee stated he would talk to the COEV about this issue.
- Development – nothing to report.
- Oversight – Nothing to report
- Prelim Committee – Nothing to report.
- Promotion, Reappointment and Merit – Nothing to report.
- Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards – Nothing to report.

### **3. New Business**

- There was no new business.

### **4. Old business**

- Budget Cuts: UW needs to cut low performing units. The Provost has issued a report to set up criteria for Program Evaluation, a continuing effort to quantify how departments are performing. ESS received a new rubric sent by the Dean’s office. Winglee informed faculty that he will continue to solicit information from them regarding this subject. Winglee asks faculty to send information containing information on their publications, national excellence, awards, and high profile students – in the last year.
- Budget cuts: Discussions are continuing at 5% and 10% cut scenarios. ESS refusing to provide 10% scenario. Winglee noted that 80% of the ESS budget is in faculty salary and 7% is in PNSN funding. He advised everyone to be prepared to adapt. He reminded faculty to come to him ASAP for TA funding support numbers.
- 10-Year-Report: Winglee had the faculty generate statements to deliver to the 10-Year Review Committee. Each group came up with a focused topic or theme. Topics

included: ESS has pioneered many new fields in the last 10 years and looking to grow and move forward in the next 10 years. Faculty identified rigorous coursework, undergrads involved in research and the experiential learning process in place in ESS at UW. Winglee asked faculty groups to be ready to present to the Review Committee Feb. 3 and 4.

## **5. Adjournment**

The open session adjourned to the Executive Session at 4:36 p.m.

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Minutes by Kelly Kumma

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Present:

Faculty: Bachmann, Bandfield, Bodin, Booker, Bourgeois, Brown, Catling, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Gillespie, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Hansen, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, McCarthy, Mercer, Montgomery, Nelson, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Odom, Roe, Swanson, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Waddington, Ward, Winebrenner, Winglee (Chair), Wood

Staff: Bernard, Kumma

Students: Argento