

University of Washington
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, May 13, 2011 – 2:30pm, 111 Johnson Hall

Department Chair Robert Winglee called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of 04/01/11 Open Session minutes

The draft minutes were circulated for review and were approved.

Meeting synopsis:

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

1. Announcements

- Congratulations to Olivier Bachmann on his promotion to Associate Professor
- Reminder - Awards Ceremony will be May 19th
- Reminder - 10 Year Review – will be May 23-24
- Steven Walters introduced, will be teaching an undergraduate GIS course Winter, and possibly a graduate version Spring
- Safety – averaging a significant accident every two years through no active fault of the participants but occurring through a set of unfortunate circumstance, the most recent occurring on a field trip this Spring. The Wilderness First Aid course is appropriate for situations like this, and faculty should participate and encourage any of their students who may do remote field work to take the course. It had a \$50 fee this year, but the goal is for next year to have a \$50 fee refunded on successful completion of the course. Also sat phones are an invaluable tool, and Mike Harrell handles the checking out of them.

2. Reports and Business

- *Undergraduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Graduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Admissions* – Announced changes in open house, with invites going out at the end of January for strong candidates (not yet admitted) and Open House being the third week of February. Initial offers would follow right after Open House. This was approved by the faculty present.
- *Curriculum* – The curriculum committee announced that the 200 core classes have had their entry requirements changed to prevent people retaking the class from registering until period 2 (all current students will get an opportunity to register prior to someone retaking it).

The curriculum committee is going to explore making the major minimum requirements major, and will work on crafting specific requirements to present to a faculty meeting.

The integrated science degree is on track to come online next year, and the committee expects it will increase enrollments in our 200 core classes by 20 per year. The college support of this degree is very high, Robert expects that there is a chance for college support for the additional burden, and it could be a strategic investment. There were no objections to continue ESS's involvement.

The committee recommends that ESS 594 be changed to a tutorial style class with many different faculty teaching it. It would have an assigned faculty (the instructor) schedule faculty to come and present, and would have quarter themes. (writing, data analysis, etc.) This means faculty would need to use seminar to access first year students.

Noell made an announcement about the climate minor. It is now up and running, involves multiple CoEnv departments, and is administered by PCC.

- *Development* - Nothing to report
- *Oversight* – Michele Conrad will create a report on the 75 budget for Oversight.
- *Computing* – Ed and Ali presented on electronic teaching aids. The goal is to increase students without increasing workload. Ed presented a possible setup involving two cameras, a powerpoint, and a tablet to have digital and interactive presentations. This would allow for both live streaming and recording and replaying. Possible uses are lectures with class time being devoted to questions and lab explanations to give more time for labs themselves. The system is designed to be easily upgradable to adapt to future needs.

Ali presented on new online tools, namely Moodle 2.0. This has expanded possibilities, including more indepth and varied quizzes, expanded grade book options, and UW netID authentication. This will allow students to login without needing to create a Moodle specific account.

ESS 101, 103, 211, 212, and 213 all volunteered to explore using these new teaching aids.

- *Scholarship* – Nearly complete with award decisions
- *Prelim Committee* – Nothing to report
- *Promotion, Reappointment, and Merit* – Will report in executive session

3. Old Business

- Master's program update. The new plan is to propose it through ABB vs Education Outreach. EO has a 50% tax, would be forced to use their equipment and couldn't use their equipment for non-MS purposes, funding overall is expected to be about the same, and it will be easier to change.

Would have a faculty director as well as a hiring a faculty program manager and lecturers. Hydrogeology and fluvial geomorphology are up and running, GIS is close, and engineering is finalizing their courses. The program would qualify you to be a state geologist.

The new faculty program manager would need an appropriate title, as it is more than a lecturer but not quite a tenure track position. Montgomery and Crider were both nominated as possible directors.

4. New Business

- Hiring Plans – the highest priority is Space Sciences, followed by Crustal Materials. Dean will possibly support both, advertising for both, and the executive session will form search committees.
- Teaching Loads need to be addressed, the preliminary proposal is that for a two year average instructors would be expected to 4 substantial large lectures (>10 students) and 2 seminars (2 large lectures, 1 seminar per year) The executive committee will draft proposed guidelines for proposal at another faculty meeting.
- Proposal Writing support increase. The dept presently spends about 16k of RCR supporting research proposal development. Robert suggested raising it from 10% of 1 month to 20% of one month. The motion passed unanimously.
- Cowan presented on possible changes to the Capstone (ESS 400). Currently it is something that sets us apart from other campus departments and many other ESS departments around the country, and is very well received by students. However demand is growing past what the course can actually serve, as demonstrated with 68 students requesting to go this year, and only 45 being accepted. The proposal is to significantly change the course, with it only being 3 weeks in Dillon, followed by 3 weeks of in JHN. The in JHN portion would be used to tie field work to lab work and give students a comprehensive experience. This would allow two groups to go increasing the number of class slots, cut the course fee in half, and involve more faculty than just the two that currently do it. There is a call for volunteers.
- Robert reminded the faculty that we are lucky that the same two faculty (one of them not even a professor here) lead this year after year, and that other people should step up if they are able to.

5. Adjournment

The open session adjourned to the Executive Session at 4:50.

Minutes by Nathan Briley
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Present:

Faculty: Abramson, Bachmann, Bandfield, Bergantz, Bodin, Booker, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Catling, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Gomberg, Gonzales, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Hansen, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, McCarthy, Montgomery, Nelson, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Odom, Roe, Sletten, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Vidale, Winglee, Wood

Staff: Bernard, Briley, Conrad, Harrell, Mulligan, Nikkhah

Students: Argento, Carns, Castle, Huybers