

**University of Washington**  
**Department of Earth and Space Sciences**  
**Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session**  
**Friday, October 7, 2011 – 2:30pm, 111 Johnson Hall**

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

**Approval of Minutes of 05/13/11 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 Kate Huntington/Gina Schmalzle with their White House visit
- Fall Reception after meeting at 5:30
- Holiday Party is Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Violence Prevention, Sexual Harassment and Diversity group trainings coming up
- Wilderness First Aid training in Fall quarter, call coming up
- Anyone with Winter or Spring colloquium speaker suggestions should contact one of the coordinators (Crider, Roe, Hallet)

**2. Reports and Business**

- *Undergraduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Graduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Admissions* – An outline of this year's process is as follows:
  - i. End of January we invite without admitting strong students
  - ii. We hold open house Feb 23/24 with first invites the next week
  - iii. We have all offers out by March 13

Buick has agreed to chair the committee this year.

Improved student support was brought up with the goal of retaining more students in the admission process. Possible solutions was increasing funding, possibly to \$2k per student for research, \$2k for discretionary such as moving. This could either be for all students, or just select students. Other possibilities are increasing TA/RA rates, Briley will look into this. Other ideas were marketing faculty research and projects better so students know what is available, or maybe giving students \$4k to start up their own research projects.

- *Curriculum* – Brown discussed adding I&S to courses that are either already offering, or could easily add, I&S material to help with the Environmental Literacy focus. The committee is going to contact

instructors for courses it thinks are appropriate and other instructors may contact the committee as well.

Field Camp – Cowan and Winglee discussed adding an additional field camp with 3 weeks in the field, 3 weeks in the labs with a GIS/Geospatial component to have a total mapping experience. Someone asked how this affects state licensing, and after Briley viewed the requirements online and contacted the office, we now know that there is no field experience requirement for the education portion. There was a call for who would take run the third field segment and interested instructors should contact Winglee.

Gregg Petrie's geospatial course have very high demand, he is assigning mini-projects to students and could use another one, so if any faculty have a project that could be done should contact him.

Roe wants to develop an ESS math course in place of Math 126. It would use applications to teach calculus rather than proofs. Students would not take both, but how the Math and ESS course would interact needs to be fleshed out.

- *Development* - Nothing to report
- *Oversight* – Nothing to report
- *Computing* – Nothing to report
- *Scholarship* – Nothing to report
- *Prelim Committee* – Annual discussion about the prelim test format and possible results. Five possible changes were discussed:
  - i. Pass into PhD or Pass into MS, conditions are okay. This is the same as the current system, but is clearer on what results mean.
  - ii. Pass or Fail, conditions okay. This would create difficulties in restricting students to MS or PhD as everyone would have same result, but would let students pursue goals if they are ready.
  - iii. Remove Exam. This option would require student advisor's/committees to have cojones to tell students they are not ready/cannot go on if needed.
  - iv. Have the student's committee do the exam. They know the student best as they work with them directly, but once again they would need the cojones to tell students they are not ready/cannot go on if needed.
  - v. Just use the General Exam as a make or break exam. Students who were ready to go on to PhD would do so, students who did well but not well enough would have a terminal MS, and students who failed would either have to re-exam or be dropped.

The faculty decided to push this back to the curriculum committee, and Robert instructed them to make sure if they pass something that it gets put into the guide before the next exams because we cannot change the format mid-process.

- *Promotion, Reappointment, and Merit* – Will report in executive session.

### 3. Old Business

- Budget issues were discussed. Enrollment is rising, classroom sizes are rising, space is not, and we are getting bumped more often. Tuition is rising, state support is diminishing.
- Committee assignments are up because full faculty are down. We will need a new executive committee member because Bruce Nelson was selected for new Associate Dean of Research, a ballot will go out soon.
- Applied Geosciences update – the program is called MESSAGE (Masters in Earth and Space Sciences: Applied Geosciences track). It is a 45 credit non-thesis degree.

#### **4. New Business**

- Geoclub is making an AEG section, Crider is advising
- Department sash sketches were presented, and numbers 1,2, and 7 were well received and will be touched up for a department wide vote.
- The faculty retreat is November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at Pack Forest. A survey for headcounts and details will go out shortly.

#### **5. Adjournment**

The open session adjourned to the Executive Session at 3:30.

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Minutes by Nathan Briley

Assistant to the Chair

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Present:

Faculty: Bachmann, Bandfield, Bodin, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Catling, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Harnett, Hernandez, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, McCarthy, Montgomery, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Odom, Roe, Sletten, Steig, Vidale, Waddington, Warren, Winglee, Wood

Staff: Briley, Conrad

Students: Harrold, Hotovec, Tobin