

University of Washington
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, February 3rd, 2012 – 3:30pm, 175 Johnson Hall

Department Chair Robert Winglee called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of 01/06/12 Open Session minutes

The draft minutes were circulated for review and were approved.

Meeting synopsis:

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

1. Announcements

- The ESS Gala abstracts are due March 2nd. Allison Anders will be the guest speaker, and the ESS Gala could use more judges and donations. Please contact essgala@uw.edu for more information.
- Geo Club is interested in doing lab tours, if you are willing to participate please respond to the email Nathan will be sending out.
- If you have ideas for what should be on the plaques to describe the various title patterns in Johnson please let Robert know. Liz Nesbitt, John Stone, and Eric Steig were identified as knowing about some of the designs.
- This year's children's day will be more like a fair, will have outdoor displays, donors, and could use some more volunteers to help out. If you are interested please contact Michele Conrad or David Rupp.
- Faculty are required to get their lobbying reports done and should do so ASAP.
- The fall Mt. St. Helens trip could use more real geologists to help out. Right now it is Paul and Robert, and a real geologist could make it more exciting and provide expertise. These trips are important for our students and also are attended by donors.
- Congrats to our graduate students who successfully applied for a student tech fee proposal (Tobin, Buskirk, Hillbun, and Harrold)
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2. Reports and Business

- *Undergraduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Graduate Program* – Nothing to report
- *Admissions* – Buick updated the faculty on the admissions progress. 30 invitations for open house were sent out, 22 responded they would attend, 5 requested an alternate date, and 3 did not respond. The first round of denials was sent out. Open house attendees are not yet accepted and

should not be informed otherwise. The first round of acceptances will go out after open house has concluded.

- *Curriculum* – The 1503 (standard to geology and endorsement changes) and the Engineering Geology (447/547) proposals are proceeding through the necessary steps.

Holzworth presented on best teaching practices, highlighting a student grading option he has been using. He selects a reviewer for an assignment, and all the other students turn in their homework to them. The student selects the best answer for each problem to turn into the instructor as a solution set on which everyone is graded. It makes it so the faculty is only grading one set and allows students to see the best answer to a given problem. Students may contest their grades if they think they were unfairly graded by the reviewer.

- *Development* - Nothing to report
- *Oversight* – Nothing to report
- *Computing* – Nothing to report
- *Scholarship* – Nothing to report
- *Prelim Committee* – Nothing to report
- *Promotion, Reappointment, and Merit* – Nothing to report

3. Old Business

4. New Business

- Winglee announced that ESS has been requested to participate in Husky Day but is waiting to hear more details about the event before committing to participate.
- The current retention policy was discussed, and the faculty voted unanimously to continue using it.
- Winglee presented on the current state of the space crunch. As the department continues to grow we need to ensure we are using space efficiently. Two options were presented.
 - i. Have research groups control their areas, and they are responsible for finding space within their area for any additions.
 - ii. Have the Executive Committee work together to review the entire department for space needs. They could also look into possible renovations as needed.
- The faculty voted (1 opposed) to take option ii.
- Michele Conrad will send out a space survey to see current usage and need.
- The department's Strategic Plan was discussed. Many areas were identified that we would like to grow, but it is currently unranked which will be discussed in April. The department is pushing for performance based allocations and planning, instead of maintaining the status quo as is current policy. The current system is not sustainable, and if funding does not grow we cannot continue to offer the 100 level courses at the level we currently do which will lead to a drastic reduction in the number of labs

and SCH. Currently TA's are being subsidized by research money, and without more funding they will be converted back to RA's. The department is pushing for funding based on SCH, as this allows both planning and reward for effort.

5. Adjournment

The open session adjourned to the Executive Session at 4:30.

Minutes by Nathan Briley
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Present:

Faculty: Abramson, Bandfield, Bergantz, Bodin, Brown, Buick, Catling, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Gillespie, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Hansen, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, Montgomery, Nesbitt, Nittrouer, Sletten, Steig, Vidale, Winglee (Chair), Wood

Staff: Bernard, Briley, Conrad