

University of Washington
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, March 8, 2013
3:30 pm, 175 Johnson Hall

Present

Faculty: Abramson, Bergantz, Bodin, Bourgeosi, Brown, Buick, Catling, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Duvall, Gillespie, Gorman-Lewis, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, Montgomery, Nesbitt, Schmidt, Sletten, Steig, Teng, Vidale, Waddington, Winglee, Wood

Staff: Bernard-Kingsley, Conrad

Graduate students: Allstadt, Harrold, Tobin

Adjuncts/Affiliate/USGUS: Joan Gomberg

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

Approval of Minutes of 2/8/2013 Faculty Meeting Open Session

The draft minutes were circulated for review prior to the meeting and were approved.

Meeting Synopsis:

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

1. Announcements

- a. Gala abstract deadline is 3/8/2013 and judges for the poster & talk sessions needed. Volunteers were to submit their names to Tom Tobin.
- b. Budget situation is still unclear. A 2% pay increase is planned; possibility of up to 3%. If there state funds are not provided the merit increases will be funded by exiting sources and attrition.
- c. Annual reports are due April 1. If a report is not submitted you will not be meritorious.
- d. The early retirement plan for faculty is expected to be extended.
- e. A facilitator has been hired for the May 11 retreat. In preparation the facilitator will hold meetings with small groups of faculty in April to discuss priorities for the department's future direction.

2. Reports and Business

- a. *Curriculum* (Waddington): the MESSAGE proposals are being submitted to the College the week of March 11, 2013. There was discussion of performance of ESS majors in ESS courses versus outside courses. No correlation was found between how the students do in biology, e.g., versus ESS. The characteristics of struggling students and the basic required courses they are repeating were discussed, and it was suggested that the faculty need to be more rigorous in enforcing the prerequisites. It was noted that one of the reasons faculty have been flexible on the prerequisites is the sequencing of courses that impacts a student's ability to graduate. A discussion about a minimum GPA for required courses, including Math 124 and Chem 142—2.0 and 1.7 were suggested

(UW sets the minimum for a pass at .7). It was noted that the students must ultimately have a 2.0 in Math and Chem in order to graduate with an ESS degree. The curriculum committee was going to review the performance in Math 124 and Chem 142 and recommend the minimum GPA for the prerequisites (perhaps 90th percentile).

- b. *Admissions* (Buick): 37 admits, 21 visited open house, 2 rejections (to CalTech and UTA), 4 acceptances.
- c. *Promotion, Merit, Tenure*: Reminded again about annual activity reports, noted that there will be a number of mandatory promotions next year, and asked others to alert the administration if they are interested in promotion. The plan is for a committee report and vote for letters in May. Faculty were reminded of the requirement for annual reviews, peer evaluations, and teaching evaluations.

3. Old Business

- a. *Glaciology Search* (Waddington): As approved at the February 2013 faculty meeting, the top three candidates have been invited to visit campus. The interviews are planned for Thursday and Friday of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th weeks of spring quarter.
- b. *Fresh Water Initiative* (Steig): There are 4 positions and phone interviews are starting. The search committee is determining who will be invited for campus visits, and some may be of storing ESS interest.