

University of Washington
Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of Academic and Research Faculty in Open Session
Friday, November 6, 2015 ~ 2:30 p.m. Johnson Hall 111

Department Chair Bruce Nelson, opened the session at 2:35 p.m.

Prior to business, UW Ombud Chuck Sloane made a presentation to those in attendance regarding the services of the Ombuds Office. His office serves the entire UW community, providing confidential services to explore options and formulate plans for the future when addressing conflict resolution.

Department Chair Bruce Nelson, called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

Meeting synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes
 2. Announcements
 3. Reports and Business
 4. Standing Committees
 5. Old Business
 6. New Business
 7. Adjournment
-

1. Approval of the October 2, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes.

The draft minutes were circulated for review and were approved.

2. Announcements

- a. Introduction of Scott Dakins, new Assistant to the Chair
- b. A hearty thank you to April Huff for covering the Assistant to the Chair position while moving into her new role as Program Manager for the Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium.
- c. A Combined Fund Drive announcement was made by Dana Hansen. "Facing Homelessness" is this year's focus. Contributions of socks are being collected in her office, as are canned goods for donation to the University district food bank.
- d. November 9 is the State of the College Address by Dean Lisa Graumlich.
- e. November 18 David Montgomery is presenting at Town Hall on his new book on microbes, *The Hidden Half of Nature*.
- f. The College of the Environment lecture series "Surviving Disaster: Natural Hazards & Resilient Communities" has been a great success, and John Vidale's lecture on Seattle-area earthquakes quickly sold out.
- g. Juliet Crider reports a very successful meet-up with ESS alumni at the GSA meeting.
- h. The 2017 GSA Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle. UW ESS will be hosting this event, to be held at the Seattle Convention Center. There will be many tasks and positions to fill in anticipation of a successful event.
- i. The 2016-17 Teaching Matrix will be distributed for comment around November 10. Please let Roe and Dakins know of any changes or updates that need to be made.
- j. A final reminder that PPL requests (sabbaticals) are due to Bruce by November 18, 2015

3. Reports and Business

- a. Curriculum (Gorman-Lewis) – Gorman-Lewis reported, via information provided to Nelson, that the Curriculum Committee will be starting a re-evaluation of the preliminary exams process. This will be discussed further in executive session.
- b. Undergraduate Program (Roe) – There is an increasing problem with add codes being issued to students who lack the prerequisites for the class. This is creating a situation where some students are under the impression that those prerequisites are therefore waived, creating a problem for their progress towards graduation. If add codes are being issued without these prereqs (for instance, Phys 114/117), it needs to be made clear to the student that they will still need to take that class in order to graduate with their ESS degree.
- c. Graduate Program (Creager) – Nothing to Report.

4. Standing Committees

- a. Admissions (Buick) – Nothing to report.
- b. Computing (Harnett) – A reminder was made to everyone to make sure they're backing up their files in multiple secure locations. It was noted that some people's backups had failed. Over the summer the computing labs were updated and there is weekly sanitization of public disk space, so please make sure working files are properly backed up. A reminder that there is a fairly new plotter in JHN-029 which is providing much better quality than the older plotters were. Students are encouraged to ask for help with printing their posters. It has been reported that some Windows 7 machines have been auto-updating to Windows 10. This is causing some driver issues, especially in the labs. This problem does not affect the machines running Windows 7 Enterprise, but does affect machines running other versions of Windows 7. Affected parties are encouraged to speak with Ed Mulligan or Nathan Briley about this.
- c. Oversight (Brown/McCarthy) – Nothing to report.
- d. Prelim (Gorman-Lewis/Schmidt) – To present during Executive Session.
- e. Promotion, Reappointment & Merit (Holzworth/Catling) – To present at Executive Session.
- f. Scholarships, Fellowships and Awards (Bergantz) – Nothing to report.

5. Old Business – none

6. New Business

- a. Winglee reports that reserving UW fleet vehicles is becoming more difficult, due in part to the fleet downsizing and not replacing large SUVs in favor of more economical small cars. This presents a problem for us obtaining vehicles for field trips and field work, where we need to transport larger numbers of people. Further discussion is needed to explore various options.

- b. Winglee brought up the question of how best to approach the matter of regaining space in Johnson Hall currently occupied by Biology once they move into their new building. Nelson noted that presentation of any arguments for this should include the benefits to the College overall rather than simply to the department. Harnett noted that during last year's space survey, there were several errors overall with how space for the College was accounted for.

7. Adjournment to Executive Session

The faculty adjourned at 3:13pm to Executive Session.

Minutes by: Scott Dakins

Attendees - Faculty: Bergantz, Bourgeois, Brown, Buick, Catling, Christianson, Cowan, Creager, Duvall, Holzworth, Houston, Koutnik, Montgomery, Nelson (Chair), Nesbitt, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Teng, Vidale, Waddington, Winglee, Woods.

Staff, Students, and Guests: Bennett, Bernard-Kingsley, Dakins, Gomberg, Hansen, Huff, Ong, Schanz, Schleicher