

Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, November 4, 2016
JHN 175 ~ 2:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order - Meeting of the Faculty in Open Session

Department Chair Bruce Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **October 7, 2016** Faculty Meeting Minutes were circulated and approved.

2. Announcements

- Good News Items
 - David Catling recently received a \$1million grant from the Simons Foundation to study the origin of life.
 - Erika Harnett has been working with EHS on the Johnson Hall safety floorplans. We will now be able to access them via ARC/GIS and make useful updates.
 - In the latest USNEWS rankings, UW Geosciences is ranked #5 globally!
 - Alexis Licht thanks everyone for clearing their rock samples out of various locations in Johnson and ATG. The cleanup of the Rock Prep Lab has been a huge undertaking and we truly appreciate his efforts. A new access system will be developed over the forthcoming months to help track who's using the room for the purpose of ensuring accountability and facility training.
- Jody Bourgeois sent her thanks to everyone who was able to attend her retirement celebration. She was deeply moved.
- 2017-18 Sabbatical Requests are due to Chair November 15.
- ESS Food Drive 2016: Dates October 24-December 14
 - We're collecting non-perishable human food items for the University District Food bank, and non-perishable pet food items for the Seattle Humane Society.
 - Please bring your donations to the ESS Front Desk in 070 or ESS Student Services.
- Effective December 1, 2016, the new Fair Labor Standards Act is in effect. The result of this for the department is that there will no longer be any Research Associate (Post-doc) positions of less than 1.0 FTE allowed. All Research Associate positions must be at 1.0 FTE at a minimum rate of \$3957/month.
- As part of the UW's new fundraising campaign – “Be Boundless” – the University will match gifts made by current and retired faculty and staff members to endowed scholarships and graduate fellowships at a 50% rate. This program runs until the matching funds are exhausted or until June 30, 2020.
- UW Transitional Support Program applications are due December 1, 2016
 - Support available for outstanding tenured and tenure-track faculty in STEM who are undergoing life transitions that may impact their research productivity.
- Spring 2017 classroom assignment requests are due to the scheduling office by end of day Friday, Dec 2 (Today). Please be responsive to requests from Gerard and Lauren regarding your course scheduling preferences and needs.

3. Reports and Business

- **Curriculum** (Gorman-Lewis) – We are embarking on a review of undergrad curriculum and degree requirements. A short survey will be sent out to the faculty, who will have until November 15 to respond.

- **Undergraduate Program** (Roe) – There will be an upcoming review of current required and recommended undergraduate course pre-requisites.
4. **Graduate Program** (Creager) – Nothing to Report.

5. **Standing Committees**

- **Admissions** (Buick) – Nothing to Report.
- **Computing** (Harnett) – Nothing to Report.
- **MESSAGe** (Crider) – Nothing to Report.
- **Oversight** (Brown/McCarthy) – Nothing to Report.
- **Prelim** (Schmidt/Steig) – Nothing to Report.
- **Promotion, Reappointment & Merit** (Holzworth/Catling) – Nothing to Report.
- **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards** (Bergantz) – Nothing to Report.
- **College Council Representation** (Waddington) –
 - A reminder that the State of the College address is this coming Monday, November 7. Email has been sent out to everyone regarding this.
 - College budget is due to central administration on November 18.
 - There is an opportunity to apply for teaching buyouts to spend time conducting research at the Friday Harbor Labs.

6. **Old Business**

- We are still looking for volunteer Colloquium Chairs for Winter and Spring quarters.

7. **New Business**

- Bergantz announced a colloquium on November 17 with Terry Plank from Columbia University.
- **Conversations on Diversity and Community**
 - How do we make progress day to day on having conversations about diversity and community in the department?
 - An informal self-identifying group, open to faculty/staff/gran students, is starting to form to have regular discussions on issues of inclusiveness and community. Announcements of formation and meetings will go out to the department.
 - An example was presented regarding how to avoid gender bias in writing reference letters. Studies show a significant difference in the language used when writing references for women than for men, even when the letter-writer is a woman.
 - We might relate discussion subjects to events in the academic calendar, in that there are yearly milestones that relevant issues of diversity and inclusiveness can be addressed in order to keep the conversation moving and relevant.

8. **Adjourn to Executive Session** (approx. 3:23 p.m.)

Minutes by Scott Dakins

Attendees – Faculty: Bergantz, Brown, Buick, Catling, Christianson, Conway, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Harnett, Holzworth, Houston, Huntington, Licht, McCarthy, Nelson, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Teng, Vidale, Waddington, Walters, Winebrenner, Winglee.

Staff, Students and Guests: Bernard-Kingsley, Bennett, Bernhardt, Dakins, Kelson, McManus, Oxley.