

Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, December 1, 2017
JHN 175 ~ 2:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order - Meeting of the Faculty in Open Session

Department Chair Bruce Nelson called the meeting to order at 2:37pm.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - The **November 3, 2017** Faculty Meeting Minutes were circulated and approved.

- **Announcements**
 - Combined Fund Drive Campaign runs October 4–**December 1**. CFD forms have been distributed to your mailboxes, and email has been sent out to faculty and staff by Scott Dakins. You are free to donate to the department via CFD.
 - Prospective Grad Open House will be held February 21-23, 2018. The dinner will be held on Wednesday night at the UW Club. On Thursday the 22nd there will be a Poster Session as well as a Colloquium. Kate Huntington is coordinating.
 - Husky 100 nominations are now open, and close on December 22, 2017. The deadline for student to submit their application is January 17, 2018. A nomination only requires that you submit one (or more) student's name to an on-line form. The student provides the application.
 - GeoClub Holiday Party will be Friday, December 8. Please contribute items for the silent auction.
 - GeoClub is looking for faculty leaders for their 2018 spring break field trip.
 - Annual reminder to make sure your emergency contact information is current in WorkDay.
 - Dean Graumlich will present her state of the college address to ESS at the beginning of the faculty meeting on February 2, 2018 starting at 2:30. This part of the faculty meeting will be open to all faculty, staff and students. Discussion with the Dean will follow her presentation.
 - Other Announcements.
 - A reminder from Eunice Yang that there is a 6-month time limit on submitting reimbursement requests. This applies equally to travel, meals, etc., and is a UW requirement.
 - Erika Harnett notes that if anyone is having any trouble regarding foreign travel to report these issues to the Faculty Senate.
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- **Reports and Business**
 - **Curriculum** (Teng) – Nothing to report.
 - **Undergraduate Program** (Roe) – Nothing to report.
 - **Graduate Program** (Creager) – Nothing to report.

- **Standing Committees**
 - **Admissions** (Buick) – January 5, 2018 is the deadline for prospective graduate students to apply to ESS. Noell has sent email to the faculty asking if they are seeking students for the 2018-19 academic year. This information will assist the committee in prioritizing the applications. Please respond immediately if you haven't already. Noell also notes that

- faculty need to make sure they have proper MyGrad permissions in order to have access to view the applications. Bruce will be sending out results of a study regarding 'what predicts success of candidates in graduate school'. The study indicates that GRE scores may not correlate to success past the 1st quarter of the program.
- **Computing** (Walters) – Nothing to report.
 - **MESSAGe** (Crider) – Nothing to report.
 - **Oversight** (Bergantz/McCarthy) – Nothing to report.
 - **Prelim** (Gorman-Lewis/Stone) – Nothing to report.
 - **Promotion, Reappointment & Merit** (Holzworth/Waddington) – Nothing to report.
 - **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards** (Stone) – Nothing to report.
 - **College Council Representation** (Bergantz) – The college council is reviewing a total of 9 (non-mandatory) promotion cases this year. There are no mandatory promotions in the college this cycle. The Council will be calling a special meeting to discuss the implications of the Republican Tax Bill and its possible effects on graduate students. There was an update on the faculty salary situation from the Provost: there is agreement among the units to address senior equity issues, but if all senior equity issues were fixed across the campus, there would be a \$5M deficit.
- **Old Business**
 - **New Business**
 - **Teaching Assistant funding issues:** Department overview as context for future planning.
 - Over the past 6 years in ESS
 - i. number of TA positions and TA FTE increased by 10%
 - ii. ESS undergraduate student credit hours increased by 5%
 - iii. TA salary+benefit costs have increased by 44%
 - Annually, ESS receives support from Undergraduate Academic Affairs for 9 quarters of TA positions. This is driven primarily by enrollment in ESS 100, 101, 102, 104, 106. It represents 8% of our TA budget.
 - There are several risks to sustaining our TA budget:
 - i. There has been no new injection of TA support funds over the last 6 years.
 - ii. UAA TA support is evaluated every year and not guaranteed.
 - iii. Congress will likely continue to examine possible taxation of TA/RA benefits, i.e., the tuition waiver.
 - There are several consequences to ESS:
 - i. We cannot sustain deficit funding of TA positions without budget adjustment.
 - ii. Expansion of TA support for classes (new or existing) is not possible without new, identified funds.
 - iii. Informal ESS TA support for students beyond guaranteed 5-year period becomes less likely, and matching students to TA positions based on instructor preference or TA background will not always be possible.
 - iv. The style and content of course labs may have to change to accommodate less TA support in the future.
 - **Adjourn to Executive Session (3:34 p.m.)**

Minutes by Scott Dakins.

Attendees: Faculty – Bodin, Brown, Buick, Christianson, Conway, Creager, Crider, Duvall, Fudge, Gorman-Lewis, Hallet, Harnett, Holzworth, Nelson, Nittrouer, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Teng, Toner, Waddington, Walters, Winglee.

Staff, Students and Guests – Bernard-Kingsley, Bernhardt, Dakins, Gomberg, Kelson, Koehler, Northway, Wirth