

**Department of Earth and Space  
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty  
Friday, May 7, 2021 2:30pm via Zoom**

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**MINUTES**

**Call to Order - Open Session (2:35)**

*Minutes unanimously approved via Catalyst vote on 5/16/21*

• **Announcements**

- The faculty will likely continue to meet during summer quarter. Decisions made during summer, provided we have quora, are ratified after summer.
- Closing date for Planetary search was Friday, 5/7. We have about 75 applicants.
- We have submitted our hiring request for three additional faculty positions.
- Tell us your TA needs and encourage your students to plan and notify Eric as well.
- Complete FAR in anticipation of *merit recommendations*.
- We are actively making plans to redevelop the ESS website. Anticipate new changes effective Autumn quarter.
- Vaccinations will be required for students Autumn quarter. Anticipate in-person instruction.
- Drew Gorman-Lewis has received an award for Exceptional Mentoring of Undergraduate Students from the College. Formal announcement is Wednesday.
- The Department has hired Hazel Valdez onto the budget team. She starts May 26<sup>th</sup>. We have plans to hire more fiscal support this summer.
- Melissa Pritchard has been hired permanently as Counseling Services Coordinator effective May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We will hire more support for grants.

• **Reports and Business**

- Undergraduate Program (Gorman-Lewis) – Having skills in data sciences is now standard for disciplines within ESS. Having this formalized as an option will give students better access to data science options across campus and acknowledges training. Done in partnership with eScience institute. This is a transcript-documented option (i.e. not a minor). It is a minimum of 11 credits; two come from eScience seminars.
- Graduate Program (Catling) – Currently, graduate students are required to take two 50X classes. Students are asking for other ESS 500-level (graduate level) classes to count toward this requirement. Proposal is that students work with instructors to assess viability of this option to satisfy degree requirements. The UW grad school allows 400-level courses to satisfy requirements per instructors' discretion. There will be an online vote to consider this.

• **Standing Committees**

- Admissions (Buick) – 50% yield rate; 10 accepted, 10 declined. Admissions intends to deny remaining applications **Tuesday, 5/11**, unless otherwise notified.
- Computing (Walters) –
- Curriculum (Christianson) –
- Diversity (Huntington) – The Department is revisiting our decision to suspend the GRE for graduate admissions (to be discussed further in June faculty meeting).
- MESSAGE (Crider) –

- Oversight (Bergantz) –
  - Prelim (Gorman-Lewis) –
  - Promotion, Merit & Reappointment (Montgomery/Waddington) –
  - Senate (Stone) -
  - Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards (Condit) – Awards will be announced Thursday afternoon (3:30pm; our colloquium time slot).
  - College Council Representation (Bergantz) – The faculty senate is reviewing how we conduct teaching evaluations. The department may reflect on current methods and reconsider developing our own method, pending approval of the faculty.
- **Adjourn (3:56)**
  - **Note: No Executive Session**

Attendance: Bergantz, Bernard-Kingsley, Black, Brown, Buick, Catling, Christianson, Condit, Cowan, Creager, Crider, Crowell, Dakins, Delight, Denolle, Duvall, Fudge, Gorman-Lewis, Griffith, Huntington, Koutnik, Lipovsky, Nelson, O’Neil, Reusch, Roe, Schauer, Sletten, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Teng, Tobin, Waddington, Walters, Winebrenner, Wren, Yao