

**Department of Earth and Space
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, February 3, 2023 2:30 pm in JHN 022**

MINUTES

Call to Order - Open Session (2:33)

Announcements

- Welcome, new hires!
 - Alison's new postdoc, Larry Lai
 - David Schmidt's postdoc Jey Kim
 - Brad Lipovsky's postdoc Ethan Williams
- Graduate Updates
 - **The Research Gala** is planned for April 4-7. A lot of graduate students are away the first week of term, when the Gala is typically held, so holding it on the second week of term allows for larger participation. However, students need to CHECK room availability. The Gala is typically held in the first week because of greater room availability.
 - **Open House**: Students will give a presentation on housing during the Friday Lunch. Students request faculty to please reach out to their graduate students to encourage attendance at Open House events.
 - **Grad retreat**: around 40 people going to Friday Harbor, Feb 17-19th.
 - Undergraduates are creating a class about career paths.
 - **Rockin' Out**: 4 events so far, will do 6 more this term. Includes in class lessons to lab tours and campus visits.
 - Upcoming **TA opportunities** through NASA program. Includes 4 TAships over the summer. Funding is available for graduate students for space related curriculum. Uncertain whether these are one week long TAships or longer – Union might have something to say about partial TAships (Crider)
 - **Rock prep facility** - determined that what is needed for this space is beyond the STF proposals. There is commitment in start-up letters for all new faculty who will use this space that will make updating this space possible. Maciej Sliwinski is available up to 1 day a week to help faculty figure out what is needed and make it happen.
- **Colloquium refreshment plan**
 - Starting in the Spring quarter, the pre-colloquium refreshments will not be handled by the graduate students. Potentially, the undergraduate students in the front office will take this over.

- **New Maternity Supporting Policy:**
 - While we cannot dedicate a room just for lactation, we can set up the zoom rooms (which rotate over time) to be available for this purpose. This includes “do not disturb” door hangers. Marine Denolle also helpfully suggested having a fridge in one of those rooms—Scott will look into this.
 - Zoom rooms can be booked through the reservation systems.
- **Research faculty interview schedules**
 - Interviews and colloquiums on 2/16 and 2/23. Please sign up to meet with these candidates on the same sheet
- **Reminder about field trips**
 - If your class has a required field trip within the M-F time schedule, it may conflict with other classes. If your field trip is not included in the course description, students may be unaware and sign up for the class, discovering later that the field trip conflicts with another course.
 - Either don't have your field trip on M-F, or include the date and time in the course description.
 - Student services is trying to post the dates of ESS field trips on the time schedule before students register. **ACTION ITEM:** please submit your Spring and Autumn field trip dates to Kristin Evans ASAP.
- **Spring undergrad field trip**
 - Akshay has offered to “lead” this trip, YAY! 11 undergraduates have expressed interest. Susannah and Nicole are graduate students going. There were also 6 graduate students wanting to go, indicating a wider interest. Other trips like this may be well-attended by undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Alumni relations**
 - Connecting with alumni and supporters in meetings, and over scientific opportunities and field trips, needs to be a torch taken up by younger faculty in the department.
 - Darrel Cowen, through the GSA Foundation, took ~20 people on a 4-5 day field trip as a thank you for their support. While not the purpose of the trip, ~\$500,000 was raised, including a legacy gift. Summer is including big ideas like this in an Alumni Strategic Plan.
 - We need to reinstate Alumni gatherings at GSA. We need a faculty member to take the torch from Darrel on organizing this.
 - Intend to create an Alumni Relations Committee

Standing Committees Announcements

- **Undergraduate Program (Gorman-Lewis)**

- Increased efforts to reach more diverse students largely includes supporting transfer students and setting them up for success.
 - Recurring theme: students are unaware of our department or what Earth and Space Sciences generally is—but they are interested in the subject material.
- Attended a majors fair for undeclared students affiliated with the Office on Minority Affairs. None of the students who visited their table had any idea what Earth and Space Sciences was, but there was a lot of interest. Also participated in virtual geo transfer night (zoom event), with a variety of four year schools and 2 year colleges with students looking to transfer.
- Opportunity to advertise our department on Earth Day! We should coordinate with the College. Earth Day is April 22nd.
- **Graduate Program (Teng)**
 - PhD committees—please visit the [Graduate School website](#) to check Graduate School Representative (GSR) eligibility. If the GSR is not eligible, this will cause a lot of problems post-defense.
- **Admissions (Buick)**
 - ESS has accepted 15 applicants for the new cohort. **This number could be higher.** There is still a week before we have a hard deadline for inviting people to Open House. Of those 15, only 3 have been admitted with any TA support. A cohort of 2-3 TAs is too small to support our teaching needs—finding external TAs is more expensive.
 - The chair is willing to increase support for TAships as a short term solution. However, a long term solution is for all faculty to include 12 months of funding for graduate students in our grants. This is regularly done in Ocean and Atmos. We can likely get more funding than we ask for. This will need to be done for the sake of graduate salary equity and summer funding discrepancy.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Faculty who haven't admitted someone yet this year, but have funding, please take a second look at your files and have another think! Faculty who have admitted one student have a reasonably good chance of being turned down. Admit 2 and hope to get 1. If you have admitted 2 and want 2, admit 3.
 - Admissions committee this year is all male. Of those 15 students admitted, 12 of them are women. There is no gender imbalance in the general applicant pool.
 - Regarding Open House—If you have admitted a student abroad, who will be traveling from abroad, the department will match domestic airfare rates from the East Coast. Anything beyond that will need to be negotiated with the admitting faculty.

- To discuss at future meetings: we have a one TA quarter requirement, should we make it two? There can be exceptions to this rule.
- **Curriculum (Crider)**
 - New web resource for writing across UW (writing.washington.edu) There are guidelines for courses with W credits. University is beginning a review with writing credits assigned. Anticipate someone checking in with you. Juliet might check in too to make sure we are doing a good job with writing credits
 - Converting experimental courses to real courses is a slow moving process (already too late for this year), but worth doing even if it doesn't show up until NEXT academic year.
- **Diversity (Tobin, Anna Ledeczi)**
 - Discussion about submitting STF proposal for field gear funding for undergrads. For required field trips, some undergraduates cannot afford the appropriate gear, or they don't know how to use it. Attire cannot be included in STF funding. Questions raised for proposal: where gear would be stored, and who should be responsible for maintaining that gear; what are our department field trips; what is the current and future demand for gear?
 - In other departments, students can apply for funding and get fixed amounts to buy their own gear. We have a catalog of field trips that run in all other departments in CoEnv.
 - UW gear garage - they will support the effort and house gear, but we did not hear back from them about the proposal. Additionally, for our field trips the gear garage may not have supplies and you have to book equipment in advance of a student committing to the field trip.
 - *Suggestion:* connect with folks at University of Colorado on gear supply.
- **Oversight (Bergantz, Roe)**
 - Eric and Scott will have a 2-3 hour meeting for budget planning with the Dean's office. That meeting should include the oversight committee.
- **Policy Committee (Bergantz, Condit)**
 - First priority is the policy for the general exam. We are working on a document, but are requesting input from the graduate students. Have reached out to the grad reps to get a graduate student on this committee, for this policy and in general.
- **Prelim (Stone, Schmidt)**
 - Reached out to grad students to review comments from last year.
- **Promotion, Merit & Reappointment (Montgomery, Catling)**
 - If you would like to be promoted, please let us know. Eric has a list and is the point person.

- Annual merit reviews - please do paperwork in advance and not last minute. If they are last minute, we won't review. **End of quarter due date.**
- **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards (Condit)**
 - Will have awards up at the end of February. They are due at the end of March, and will be assessed in April. **Awards ceremony on May 12th.**
 - We do not have a clear policy for how graduate students can ask for money for small research needs. Easiest to apply for the award, but this is not always doable. Needs further discussion.
- **College Council Representation (Schmidt)**
 - Working with the Dean's office on financial equity issues.
- **Safety (Schauer)**
 - AEDs being installed—more information soon.

(Tobin) USGS Coop funding opportunity (reference email)

- Housing USGS staff is historically very beneficial. Now, there is a Coop award from USGS in exchange for them being here. Funds two full RAs all year, for 5 years. We have money that we HAVE to spend between now and September. We have 8 individual quarter RAs.
- **Students + advisors can submit simple applications by Feb 16th.**
 - Research in a broad sense related to earthquakes and related hazards. They will consider anything! **Please apply!** If you are on the fence about applying, please communicate this to the admissions committee.
- (1) one full person equivalent each admissions cycle. Apply every year. Augmentations of support for people; (2) because you have to spend all your money now, you might be able to be more broad in what you think is relevant now than next year. There is urgency. Don't be too shy in proposing to the committee your student's work is relevant!
- Thank you to Harold and Marine for making this happen. May be able to further develop our relationship with USGS in the future.

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:37)