

Department of Earth and Space Sciences
Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, May 5, 2:30 pm in JHN 022

MINUTES

Call to Order - Open Session (2:33PM)

In attendance: [faculty] Bergantz, Buick, Condit, Crider, Denolle, Lipovsky, Mehra, Roe, Schmidt, Steig, Stone, Swanson, Teng, Tobin, Waddington, Walters. [guests] Bernard-Kingsley, Dakins, Lindquist, Shumway, Wren, Caton, Gomberg, Aikin, Desanto, Downey

Announcements

- ESS Newsletter update - "Between Spheres"
- Graduation ceremony speaker announcement
- New website launch
- Graduate Students getting 5% raise this year (effective July 1)
- Search: Thank you everyone!

Standing Committees Announcements

- **Admissions (Buick)**
 - Provided final report by admissions committee. 13 people accepted!! Significantly above two years ago. DEI efforts appear to be working in graduate student recruitment. Of 13 that accepted, each and every one of them were given some sort of incentive to accept. 76.4% of offers accepted.
 - Much higher acceptance rate, much higher proportion of female acceptances, acceptance incentives clearly help.
- **Computing (Walters) - summary on upcoming ESS/IT updates**
 - 3D printer on its way if not here already. Costs to print are fairly low and pretty straightforward if folks need to use it.
 - (Nathan) Department looking into the possibility of purchasing a large, shared backup server for departmental use. A couple of the larger groups have already started doing this. Nathan has recirculated the email to gauge interest with answers to common questions. **Please let Nathan and Comp Staff know if you are interested. If they decide to move forward, they will follow up with those who have indicated interest on the specifics.**

- ESS IT will coordinate more directly with students (using templates from UW and ESS IT) to put forth more STF proposals to increase resources as needed.
- Shifting to windows 11, will mean a complete replacement for labs. Here by autumn, roll out next summer.
- Shared resources and changes in google policy. Looking into a switch from google suite applications to Microsoft 365.
- ESS Comp staff time commitments are very taxed. Looking into solutions.
- **Curriculum (Crider) - proposal for TA allocation to undergraduate courses; preview of undergrad curriculum revision**
 - See slides for proposals
 - Discussed proposal for TA allocation.
 - Discussed impact of ESS 101 on the College, ABB funds, and our continued frustration that our contribution (particularly that of Terry Swanson), is financially undervalued.
 - Terry Swanson expressed frustration at the long history of the Department not being adequately supported given how much money we – and he in particular – bring in through ABB.
 - The graduate student reps asked whether the proposal for TA allocation would impact funding commitments to graduate students. The Chair made clear that it would not – these issues are unrelated.
 - Discussed proposal for curriculum revision and new structure to ESS BS degree
 - **Committee will bring proposal to June faculty meeting**
- **Diversity (Tobin)**
 - Proposal to start a scholarship for a one-time \$500 award for students (undergraduate or graduate) to purchase personal field gear. Given to ~10 students every academic year. Undergraduates prioritized. Awards dispersed based on financial need and budget justification, up to \$500. Award provided up front.
 - Will keep the application open throughout the year. The DEI committee will evaluate applicants. Will set aside a certain number prior to summer quarter to support students preparing for field camp.
 - Will look into targeted fundraising for this award.
- **MESSAGe (Crider)**
 - Final presentations will be the week of May 15th. Will be fabulous. Come to talk or two. 5-6 students graduating this quarter.
- **Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards (Condit)**
 - Awards Ceremony is Friday 5/12, at 3:30PM in JHN 102

- **Colloquium (Mehra and Tobin)**
 - Will be sending out a message soliciting nominees, including 4 DLS.
Deadline late May.
- **Chairship**
 - Dean has asked Eric to do one more year. He has asked that the Dean appoint a new search committee for a new Chair in the fall.

Adjourn to Executive Session (3:58)