

**Department of Earth and Space  
Sciences Meeting of the Faculty  
Friday, 12/6/24, 2:30 pm in JHN 022**

**OPEN MINUTES**

[Attendees: Buick, Condit, Denolle, Duvall, Huntington, Koutnik, Krissansen-Totton, Mehra, Montgomery, Muth, Schmidt, Teng, Walters. Bernard-Kingsley, Campese, Dakins, Lui, Aranguiz, Fintel, Pearson, Aikin, Johnson]

**Call to Order - Open Session (2:30PM)**

**Announcements**

- Accolades + Awards (Schmidt, 5 minutes)
- Welcome New ShakeAlert Director, Natalia Ruppert (Schmidt, 1 minute)
- College AGU Booth (Schmidt, 1 minute)
- JHN 141 to open in early January (Dakins, 1 minute)
- Gala Committee (3 minutes)
  - Please block off time to attend and encourage undergraduate students to think about projects.

**Standing Committees Announcements**

- Admissions (Buick)
  - Applications closed 12/1. 170 applications, down from 197 applications last year. 135 started but not completed. 7 faculty are recruiting this cycle. 5 application fee waivers were awarded.
  - Most popular application area is astrobiology, also planetary science, glaciology, paleo, and geophysics.
- Advancement & Engagement (Schmidt, Caton) - Distinguished Graduate Award (Schmidt, 5 minutes)
  - Two new awards, ESS Distinguished Graduate Award and ESS Emerging Leader award. Nominees stay in the pool for three years. Will be awarded starting with the 2025 awards ceremony. Awardee needs to be in attendance.
  - [Nominate an ESS graduate here.](#)
- Computing (Walters, Lipovsky)
  - Standing goals for 24/25 – ongoing discussion about an AI policy and what to do with it with respect to teaching and research (Walters, Lipovsky, Mehra). Please connect/reach out if faculty have thoughts or feedback.
- Diversity (Tobin)

- Held first meeting, formalizing charge to committee and making plans.
- GeoClub (Stone)
  - Winter party 12/5
  - Looking for a faculty member to accompany them for HI spring field trip, the department will subsidize costs for the faculty member who goes.
  - Contact John Stone if interested.
- Policy (Krissansen-Totton)
  - Working on updates to FAR
- Scholarships and Awards - New awards site live (Mehra, 2 minutes)
  - [The awards site is live](#). Applications and nominations are due February 7, 2025. Please submit nominations for nomination-based awards for service and teaching.
  - Will offer a future workshop for grads and undergrads about preparing applications for scholarships.

### **Business**

- Planetary Science Search update (Teng, 5 minutes)
  - 10 applicants have been interviewed via zoom
  - Goal is to narrow down to three candidates to invite for in person interviews and present these candidates at the January faculty meeting.
- Geomorphology search update (Huntington, 10 minutes)
  - Can request slides.
  - Process overview: looking for an Asst. Prof in geomorphology. 10 zoom interviews were conducted.
  - Committee members attended a best practices training and have implemented guidance (relevant laws/policies, etc.); also discussed a list of inappropriate/illegal topics when evaluating applicants.
- Graduate student salary rates for 2025 (Schmidt, 10 minutes presentation + 20 minutes discussion)
  - Can request slides. Ongoing discussion with graduate student reps and faculty by chair. Current ASE contract runs through June 2027.
  - Two scenarios were presented: Scenario A collapses rates between pre and post general, and Scenario B maintains a 5% step between.
  - **Motion** (Condit) to adopt scenario A, Mehra seconds. Online vote.
- Faculty Retreat Discussion (Schmidt, 5 minutes)
  - Preference for spring retreat because of new hire knowledge
  - Consider weekday, akin to public K-12 in-service day
  - If weekend day, May 31 seems to be best option

**Adjourn to Executive Session (3:30PM)**