

Earth and Environmental Sciences Alumni Advisory Board (EESB)

Meeting Minutes: April 9, via Zoom Videoconference

April Action Items for the Board

1-3 are holdovers from October meeting action items

1-Develop a list ENVIS resources available to students, particularly for future work in the field of environmental sciences. Todd Ririe thinks we need to steer away from making long lists of resources and instead provide a few examples and then keep it fresh by providing updates on free online seminars and resources to the ENVIS club. Post on EESB web page [can be made by routing them to the current chair of the Environmental Science Club](#). The prior list he sent was simply resources available for free on sites such [the API Soil and Groundwater Research page: https://www.api.org/oil-and-natural-gas/environment/clean-water/ground-water](#) (Aden and Ririe).

2-Develop presentations and a listing of professional licensing and pathways to professional qualifications to be made available to students. Connect with Ben Swanson who will be including this type of material in the Careers Course starting in the fall 2020. Todd Ririe offered up what is required to become licensed professional geologist in CA as an example: https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/exa_app_info_for_gg.shtml. The major change in CA is that people starting off their career as a professional geologist now can take the geologist in training exam if they meet the requirements set out in this application form: https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/pubs/forms/git_application.pdf This is a good guide to what will be required for not only CA but also for what companies may be looking for in newly hired positions. (Ririe)

3-Discuss with **Dick Baker** and **Chris Harms** schedule of Environmental Sciences Brownbag to better fit undergraduate schedule as a way to bring ENVIS students into contact with local environmental professionals (Burkart). The time needs to be changed as undergrads are not able to attend since it is out of sync with course times.

4- Ask **Emily Finzel** to send a request for DAA award nominations to all alumni. This will be included in the Spring 2020 Newsletter and the article is written on April 13, 2020 (Sullivan).

5- Investigate the initial naming of the department to define the origin date for purposes of scheduling a sesquicentennial celebration (Sullivan and Cramer).

6 - Amy will compile a condensed history for the departmental website also.

7- Establish the Nominating Committee for new EESB members (Sullivan, Burkart, Cramer, Phillips, and Schutter). The goal is to have updated by laws circulated to the board for approval by June 1, 2020.

8 – Alumni board members are asked to revert to Adam Blind on potential contacts for the Center for Advancement per previous communication.

9- Amy will submit articles for the Spring 2020 Newsletter – One on the DAA process and soliciting nominations and another on general EESB activities. (Done).

10- Mike Burkart agreed write a nomination of Bill Furnish to the Department's Geode Stars page including contact with Dick Baker, a longtime friend of Bill's, and Jim Furnish, one of Bill's sons.

11- Mike Burkart will post summary slides and minutes to the EESB website once they are finalized.

EESB Meeting

The Chair (Sullivan) called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Members participating via Zoom teleconferencing: Amy Sullivan, Leon Aden, Mike Burkart, Richard Denne, Lee Phillips, Todd Ririe Grant Smith, and Steve Schutter. Liz Maas and Jennifer Wade had teaching obligations.

Nonmembers participating were David Peate (EESD Chair), Adam Blind (Center for Advancement liaison), Brad Cramer (Faculty liaison), Emily Finzel, and Chris Harms.

Prof. David Peate: Variety of challenges facing new chairmanship include a new dean and associate deans, new budget structure, and all instruction online. Biggest impact of online instruction is on field and lab activities. Field classes cancelled include Field Methods, Field Hydrology and Field Camp. Field Camp graduation requirement was waived for this year (2 students). It is not clear how this will affect employment potential for these students, but department will accommodate when possible problems arise.

The building is shut down except for necessary access. Custodians must clean surfaces everywhere individuals (faculty and grad students) who are granted access to the building have been in contact. Some difficulty with home uploads has forced some faculty to use classrooms for lectures. Most, however, are staying away from building.

Faculty announcing retirement plans within the next two years: Tom Foster and Mark Reagan. Ingrid Ukstins is also leaving for a position in New Zealand.

The 5-year hiring plan priorities are: 1- geophysicist; 2- earth materials (mineralogy/petrology); 3- hydrologist; 4- paleontologist. Dean Goddard is not allowing 1-for-1 faculty replacement under the philosophy that retiring faculty filled positions were those needed 20+ years ago and the college is thinking about the needs of 10 years in the future. In other words all positions must be justified.

Dean Steve Goddard approved hiring of a new post doctorate faculty member, micro-paleontologist, Shamar Chin, in the department. Dr. Chin is among four new postdocs the college hired

https://now.uiowa.edu/2020/04/uis-first-postdoc-faculty-fellows-announced?utm_source=IANowFaculty&utm_medium=postdoc_fellows&utm_campaign=IANowFaculty-4-9-2020

In answer to a question by **Lee Phillips** about enrollment declines due to the novel virus situation, Prof. Peate said Iowa was similarly expecting a 10% decline in the next few years with enrollment stabilizing after that.

Brad Cramer added that the budget drop of 3-4% last year was mostly a result in the reduced number of foreign students who normally pay the full tuition costs. **Brad** further stated that he has been working with Kirkwood, through Liz Maas, to increase "2+2" enrollment. One of the hurdles to this is the Federal funding push for associate degrees to maintain accreditation. This means that Community College students are generally required to fulfill all their core-course requirements before coming to Iowa.

A review of October meeting action items showed that most were accomplished. Items 3, 4, and 5 were retained for additional action.

October Board Action Items (number refer to actions listed in October Minutes; * means incomplete at time of the April meeting):

- 1- Digital link for ENVIS program through EESB completed
- 2- **Mike Burkart** and **Leon Aden** attended AAPG and EVS student organization meetings to talk about EESB. **Liz Maas** made a presentation before the EVS student club.
- 3- **Todd Ririe** this has evolved away from licensing.
- 4- ***Todd Ririe** and **Amy Sullivan** will discuss integrating professional certification information into the EVS seminar course.
- 5- ***Mike Burkart** will talk to **Dick Baker** and **Chris Harms** about adjusting EVS Brownbag schedule to better engage undergraduate students at the suggestion of **Brad Cramer** and **David Peate**.
- 6- **David Peate** is still working on the strategic plan to meet the new structure; evaluate plan for the College; and incorporate faculty comments this next week. He will distribute latest version when complete.
- 7- There was no motion to amend the DAA process.
- 8- ***Amy Sullivan** will ask **Emily Finzel** to send a request for DAA award nominations to all alumni.
- 9- & 10-Need to get information to **Emily Finzel** for the Newsletter.
- 11-Todd Ririe reported that students responding to the mentoring survey have been matched with alumni board members.
- 12- A discussion of Geode Stars (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/ees/about/iowa-geode-stars>) resulted in the suggestion of **Bill Furnish**. **Mike Burkart** agreed to contact **Dick Baker**, a longtime friend of Bill's, and **Jim Furnish**, one of Bill's sons, to develop a nomination for Bill. Other names suggested were Sam Calvin, and Brian Glennister.
- 13- **Mike Burkart** reported that there were no alumni boards connected to other departments that contribute to the Environmental Sciences Program. This was discovered in response to action item 12 of October meeting. **Brad Cramer** noted that several other departments had enquired about our board as an example for them establishing an alumni board of some type.

***Prof. Peate** raised the question of the origin of the Geology Department. He cited 1874, meaning the sesquicentennial of the department will be in 2024. **Amy Sullivan** and **Brad Cramer** will investigate further to define the origin date for purposes of scheduling a sesquicentennial celebration.

Adam Blind offered the following information in reference to EES fundraising support. FY19 plus FY20 (the years for the fundraising intuitive) shows \$1.115m raised, including cash gifts, pledges, and planned (estate) gifts. He noted three significant recent gifts, including two from board members (Sullivan and Denne). The Cononavirus pandemic is affecting the fundraising strategy across campus, including the postponement of One Day for Iowa and several marketing pushes shown to boost productivity numbers.

***Nominations for Board Members.** **Mike Burkart** proposed we develop a nominating committee to incorporate **Steve Schutter's** and **Amy Sullivan's** extensive work to date on the subject in a specific set of amendments to the bylaws. Discussion included timing of turnover, fraction of the board to be replaced (50% every 2 years or 1/3 every year), diversity between ENVIS and GEO grads, undergrad vs graduate degrees, as well as gender and race. **Brad Cramer** has a list of graduates which may serve as board members, or as mentors. Committee is charged with producing by laws amendments and obtaining EESB approval PRIOR to the Fall 2020 meeting. **Mike Burkart**, **Lee Phillips** and **Steve Schutter** volunteered to be on the committee, **Amy Sullivan** agreed to chair the committee and asked **Brad Cramer** to serve on the committee as the Department will play an important role in identifying likely candidates. Amy will invite **Liz Maas** or **Jennifer Wade** to join the committee.

Distinguished Alumni Award.

Amy Sullivan announced that this year's awardee, **Joanna Thamke**, will give a talk to the department during the regular Friday seminar time. Amy also requested that nominations be sent to her at any time. She presented a tentative calendar for the following.

2020 Triennial Alumni Meeting

The Homecoming weekend- see attached slides. **Mike Burkart** and his wife, **Judy** will host a Thursday evening gathering for alumni and faculty similar to 2019. **Brad Cramer** suggest a Friday evening event at the Clinton Street Social Club (above the Airliner) similar to last year. Mike and Judy will also provide accommodations for Joanna and Ed while they are in Iowa City. Chris Harms reminded Mike that she needs to know soon so she can make hotel reservations if necessary.

Strategic Plan

Further discussion by **David Peate** included the fact that the new format will include four main parts to the strategy document including research, student success, diversity and inclusion, and outreach. CLAS is still in the process of developing the strategic plan.

Mentoring Committee

Brad Cramer and **Todd Ririe** had a long discussion of college and university rankings. Apparently, one uses a limited number of invited opinions and another uses some measurements. The opinion ranking is one that gets the most attention. Our department ranks quite differently in the two. It was not clear whether we were ranked as an Environmental Science or Geoscience department or both, it would be great if Brad clarified this in a short paragraph for us.

Mentor-mentee contacts have been established for the AAPG Student Chapter and the Environmental Science Clubs. In the fall of 2019 the Career Course will be offered for freshmen-sophomores. In the spring semester 2020 the course will be for juniors and seniors. It is intended that the mentoring will be part of the Careers Course. Over the summer Ben Swanson will have more information on the Careers Course. The UI will likely have some specific training for anyone participating as a mentor for the Careers Course. The distinction between voluntary student clubs and a formal course offering is important in terms of how the mentor-mentee relationship is administered.

Todd Ririe would like to compile "lessons learned" on mentoring program. He considers the mentoring to be in two parts: 1) helping an individual on things such as a resume, or career planning and 2) helping groups of students in items such as talks, free seminars, and case studies.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Burkart, Secretary

The meeting Agenda is appended.

Spring 2020 EESB Meeting Agenda
Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Alumni Advisory Board

April 9, 2020

10:00 – 13:00 CST (via ZOOM)

Note: TH Conference Room reserved for meeting (thanks Chris!)

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda Overview, Chair Opening Remarks (Sullivan)

10:10 – 10:30 Info Share – General needs about student, faculty and departmental needs (All)

10:30 – 10:45 Review October 2019 Minutes and Actions (Burkart)

10:45 – 11:00 Fund the Future Initiative Update (Cramer & Blind, EESB Committee)

11:00 – 11:30 EESB Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update (Schutter, Sullivan)

- GSA Nomination process – an example
- Finalize nomination process for EESB
- Propose vote for Chair –Elect if nomination and bylaws approved
- Decide quorum of 6 members for the Nomination Committee (Chair, Chair-Elect and 4 EESB members)

11:30 – 12:00 Alumni Outreach (Schutter)

- Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA): Recipient: Joanna Thamke

All Alumni Day – The Triennial!

- October 2020 Planning (All)
- Draft Agenda

12:00 – 12:15 EESD Strategic Plan (Cramer)

12:15 – 12:45 Mentoring Committee (Ririe, Cramer)

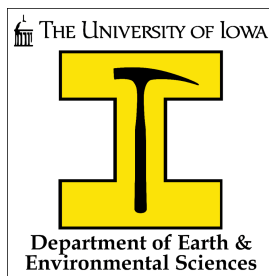
- EVS and AAPG Student Chapters

12:45 – 13:00 Any Other Business (AOB)

- Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
- Final Comments (All)

SLIDES USED IN THE MEETING

EESD Spring 2020 Meeting April 9, 2020 9:00 – 12:00 CST (via ZOOM only)



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Agenda (1 of 2)



- 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda Overview, Chair Opening Remarks (Sullivan)
- 10:10 – 10:30 Info Share – General needs about student, faculty and departmental needs (All)
- 10:30 – 10:45 Review October 2019 Minutes and Actions (Burkart)
- 10:45 – 11:00 Fund the Future Campaign Kickoff (Cramer & Blind)
- 11:00 – 11:30 EESB Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update (Schutter, Sullivan)
 - GSA Nomination process – an example
 - Finalize nomination process for EESB
 - Propose vote for Chair – Elect if nomination and bylaws approved
 - Decide quorum of 6 members for the Nomination Committee (Chair, Chair-Elect and 4 EESB members)

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Agenda (2 of 2)

- 11:30 – 12:00 Alumni Outreach (Schutter)
 - Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA): Recipient: Joanna Thamke

- All Alumni Day – The Triennial!
- October 2020 Planning (All)
 - Draft Agenda

- 12:00 – 12:15 Strategic Plan (Cramer) Mentoring Committee (Ririe, Cramer, Ben Swanson and Andrew Forbes)
 - Careers Course and Environmental Science (ENVS)
 - Feedback from Faculty and Students

- 12:15 – 12:45 Mentoring Committee (Ririe, Cramer)
 - EVS and AAPG Student Chapters

- 12:45 – 13:00 Any Other Business (AOB)
 - Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
 - Final Comments (All)

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Review April 2019 Minutes and Actions (Burkart) 1 of 2 (red = not done)



- 1-Build a digital link through EESB to Environmental Science (ENVS) Program (Sullivan)
- 2-Engage Environment Science student groups on behalf of the EESB. (Burkart and Maas)
- 3-Develop a list and description of educational licensing opportunities available to students, particularly for future work in the field of environmental sciences. Post on EESB web page. (Aden and Ririe)
- 4-Develop presentations on licensing to be made available to Environmental Science Seminar through Andrew Forbes (Ririe and Sullivan) – maybe this has been done???
- 5-Discuss with Forbes appropriate actions to bring ENVS students into contact with local environmental professionals (Burkart)
- 6-Coordinate Board comments/input to Chairman David Peate on development of EESD strategic plan (Burkart) – Well Done!!
- 7-Revisit and redraft process for DAA nominations (Schutter) – done 1/11/2020

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Review April 2019 Minutes and Actions 2 of 2



8-Emily Finzel will send an announcement to all alumni with award nomination information from Schutter as soon as she gets it – Should still send new nomination process out

9-Send DAA nominations, at least a name, to Schutter, by November (All)

10-Provide Emily Finzel with a call for DAA nominations that can be distributed to all alumni. Fall newsletter will not be sent out before nominations are needed (Schutter?) – Out of date

11-Develop questionnaire/survey to elicit from students the needs and desires for potential mentoring by alumni (Ririe)

12-Solicit members for names and descriptions of individuals to populate the GeoStars data base (Schutter) – Steve has done Trowbridge and King – Need more!!

13-Develop collaborations with other alumni/groups from Departments contributing to ES Program (Unassigned) – This may be considered done due to the Strategy work

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“Fund the Future” Campaign Kickoff (Cramer & Blind)



- We are in the “Silent Phase”
- Go “Public” next homecoming to tie with Triennial Board Meeting Events.
- Close Coordination with University Center for Advancement
- Alumni Event at AAPG ACE 2020 in June (TBD)
-Please review Alumni List and send information to Adam!!

Nomination Committee – GSA Example



- GSA Nomination Committee for the Council consists of 8 members including the non-voting Exec. Director
 - Committee meets each year to consider nominations for open positions
 - Candidates may self-nominate or are nominated by GSA colleagues
 - Committee reviews list and supporting documentation, including GSA service record, etc.
 - Committee makes recommendation to GSA Council (i.e. EESB at large)
 - Council reviews and approves candidate list and the ballot is prepared
- GSA members vote from Mar – April
 - Nominations are often taken from a pool of previous councilors
 - The Nomination Committee considers that 1 out of 3 Councilors has potential to become President (Chair in our case)
 - GSA regrets that qualified people have been lost at the Council level because they did not win an officer election
 - GSA encourages members to serve on committees and submit a nomination/volunteer form

• <https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/About/Leadership/GSA/About/vote.aspx>

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Nomination Committee - Justification



Steve:

My understanding is that anyone can be on the board, but we have a relatively fixed number of voting members. If necessary, the bylaws can be made more explicit on that point. I would think if members are limited to 2 three-year terms, they would be subject to "re-election" as well as "election." Reality being what it is, it would be more of a confirmation of those willing to serve.

That is why I think it is necessary to specify that half of the board rolls over in any given election; otherwise, there is a need to elect more members the next election.

Most of us are happy to continue our service on the EESB, but we really need some limits. We could up the term limits. Most are okay with a 3 yr or 6 yr commitment, but a 9 yr (3 term) commitment is a bit much. We need the rollover limits to make sure we get new blood onto the committee.

As I understand it, the idea is that after your service as a voting member of the committee, you may continue to participate in the EESB for as long as you are willing to do so, but you wouldn't be counted as a voting member.

As I see it, the job of the nominating committee is to make sure that there is at least a minimum influx of new blood on a regular basis.

Anyone who wants to be on the EESB can volunteer (subject to confirmatory "election"); the nominating committee would also entertain suggestions/nominations, but in the event of a shortfall, would be responsible for actively recruiting new members (however they choose to do that).

I think we need to be a little more proactive, and figure out how we want to accomplish that.

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Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update (1 of 3)



Proposed modification of the Earth and Environmental Science Alumni Board Bylaws
RE: Board terms and member nomination/selection - Submitted by Steve Schutter, Chair Alumni Outreach Committee

Proposed modification (numbers refer to sections of current bylaws that are to be replaced or supplemented).

Article III

Section 1

(Combine b and d as b1; and add, "Terms will begin with the spring EESB meeting in either the year before or the year after the Triennial Meeting to ensure transition with current board."

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[For the purposes of the existing board, half of the membership should be assigned to be replaced in 2021, and half in 2022. (Verify years)]

b2. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for finding at least four (4) Member candidates for each election, and may propose up to eight (8), providing the total of elected voting Members does not exceed fifteen (15). Nominating committee will provide the slate of candidates at the fall meeting. Terms shall run for three years, beginning with the spring meeting following election.

b3. Members shall be approved by voting confirmatory e-mail election conducted two months before the Spring meeting to ensure the new members are informed and participating at the Spring meeting (usually held in April). The EEAB Chair shall conduct the election, polling the current Voting Members, and notify the new Members of their election.

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Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update (2 of 3)



Article IV

Section 1

b1. Add: Terms will be concurrent with the Membership term of that Member.

c1. A Chair-Elect will be established. The duties of the Chair-Elect are to serve as a deputy to the Chair, and to fill in when the Chair is unable to be present. The Chair-Elect will become Chair for a three-year term with the end of the current Chair's term. The Chair-Elect may be elected at any time during the current Chair's final acting term.

Article VI

Section 2

d. **The Nominating Committee** will be responsible for finding new Members for the EESB. d1. A Nominating Committee will be established. The Nominating Committee will consist of the EESB Chair, the EESB Chair-Elect, and members of the EESB. The committee will be at least six members to ensure full EESB participation in nomination process. They shall vet potential candidates with the advice of the EESB Executive Officer (DEO) also known as the EESB Chair and the Faculty Liaison. Note: that candidates may include current Members who are eligible for another term.

[For the purposes of the existing board, half of the membership should be assigned to be replaced in 2021, and half in 2022.]

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Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update (3 of 3)



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EESB Current Board Terms*



Member	Term 1*	Term 2*	*	Nominating Scenario	
Leon	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 04/23	N 4/23 - 4/26
Mike	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 04/23	N 4/23 - 4/26
Richard	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 04/23	N 4/23 - 4/26
Liz	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 04/23	N 4/23 - 4/26
Lee	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 4/24	N 4/24 - 4/27
Todd	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 4/24	N 4/24 - 4/27
Steve	10/14-10/18	10/18-10/21	Vacant 10/21	Vacant 4/21	N 4/21 - 4/24 N 4/24 - 4/27
Grant	10/14-10/18	10/18-10/21	Vacant 10/21	Vacant 4/21	N 4/21 - 4/24 N 4/24 - 4/27
Amy	10/14-10/18	10/18-10/21	Vacant 10/21	Vacant 4/21	N 4/21 - 4/24 N 4/24 - 4/27
Jennifer	10/18-10/21	10/21 - 10/24		Vacant 4/24	N 4/24 - 4/27

*Term runs from fall to fall due to attendance at Triennial meeting; thus current term ends Oct.2021.
Nominating Scenario Conditions: N = New board member; 2023 next Triennial Meeting - N comes on spring before or after Triennial; Alternating vacancies can begin earlier by member resignation; Vacancy schedule must be tracked in EXCEL with clear date confirmations for terms.

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Nomination Committee & Bylaws Update



- Need to approve and put in motion now for slate of candidates for Oct.2020 meeting
- Determine Chair-Elect and Nomination Committee members (4)
- Board members – Volunteer Please for this Committee!
- Grant: I reviewed the proposed changes. One suggestion would be to change from specifically identifying change in 1/2 the board in 2020 and 2021 to stating that it is the board can not roll over more than 1/2 of the members in any given year. that way it protects the continuity in the future.
- Lee: agrees with proposal and supports Grant's suggestions
- Richard: This might be addressed elsewhere in the bylaws, but I'm just making sure. When a proposed board member's term is up
 - (1) Can they remain on the board? **Current bylaws says shall not serve more than 2 terms (III.1.d)**
 - (2) Do they have to be re-elected to remain on the board? **Current bylaws do not include this option**

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Distinguished Alumnus Award (Sullivan) Alumni Outreach



- Updated DAA webpage with John Eiler bio from 2019
- 2020 – Joanna Thamke – USGS Supervisory Hydrologist, and Wyoming – Montana Water Section Chief
- 2021 Nominations – please submit at any time
- Lack of Board involvement in nominations, vetting process and voting
- Ask for volunteer to coordinate for 2021

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All Alumni Day – The Triennial Alumni Outreach



- Multi-day Agenda Development – Board Involvement
- 2020 – Oct 23 (Oct 24 Northwestern)
- Expect 100% EESB attendance

DRAFT AGENDA		
Thu Oct 22	J. Thamke arrival	
Fri Oct 23	Student lunch - Thamke	
Fri Oct 23 1:30 – 3:30	Student Poster Session	
Fri Oct 23 3:30 – 4:30	DAA Award & Lecture	
Fri Oct 23 5:30 – 7:00	DAA Reception & Homecoming Parade	Clinton St. Social Club
Sat Oct 24	Field Trip	
Sat Oct 24	IA v. Northwestern	
Sun Oct 25	GSA – Montreal, Quebec	

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EESD Strategic Plan (Cramer)



- 2020 CLAS Strategic Plan – Progress to date

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Mentoring Committee Update (Ririe, Cramer, Swanson, Forbes)



- Progress to Date – Ririe/Cramer
- Mentoring and the 2020-2021 Careers Course – Cramer
- Training for Mentors on current University Policies to support the Careers Course - Cramer

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Any Other Business (All)



- Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
- Final Comments (All)

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