

Spring 2023 EESB Meeting Notes
Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Alumni Advisory Board
April 21, 2023
10:00 – 1:00 CDST (via ZOOM)

Members Attending: Richard Denne, Melissa Evans, Brian Hartman, Luan Heywood, David Peate, Lee Phillips, Todd Ririe, Noah Sterns, Tim Stroope, Kate Tierney

Guests: Adam Blind, Brad Cramer, Emily Finzel

10:00 – 10:30 Roll Call, Agenda Overview, Chair Opening Remarks (Phillips)

- Review October 2022 Minutes and Actions (Denniston)
- Round Table Questions:
 - What are your reflections on Board-related events during the fall meeting or since?
 - How would you like to get the most out of serving the EESB?
 - Todd Ririe mentioned that we could all be more active through
 - Mentoring
 - Volunteering to help with the Career Class
 - General sentiment of all members is that we could be doing a better job staying engaged. We certainly have the passion, or would otherwise not be part of the Board, we just need a little more follow through.

10:30 – 11:00 EESB “Call to Board Service”

Nomination Committee (Maas, Phillips)

- Review member terms for succession planning
- Slate of Nominees needed to consider/approve
 - *Make this a working portion of the meeting*
 - *Add a note to the weekly departmental newsletter*
 - *Adam Blind could provide suggestions based on dept donations*
 - *Faculty nominations of former students*
 - *Kate has someone in mind*

Officer and Committee Chair Elections

- Chair Elect needed
- Alumni Outreach Committee Chair needed

11:00 – 11:20 Alumni Outreach (Phillips)

- 2023 DAA: Nominees
 - Work with existing list to put together a slate of 3 candidates

- The board suggests that we consider that slate to be approved by this committee and then send it to the board for consideration.
- Vote by the end of April and notice to Awardee soon thereafter.
- Alumni Efforts
 - Get in touch with Steve Shutter to consider making new contributions to the dept history, especially with the 150 anniversary in 2024
 - Planning for the 2024 celebration
 - Student t-shirts for a fund raising effort
 - Funds for:
 - fieldtrip gear
 - Fieldtrips
 - Scholarships – travel awards

11:20 – 11:30 Short Break

11:30 – 12:00 Department Update – Current Challenges/Opportunities (Peate)

- Valerie has been onboarded as planetary geologist
- Field ecology instructional track
- CAS declined other faculty request for environmental geophysics
- Jane Gillotti is retiring and the dept is in need of a structural geologist
- Enrollment is back up after a COVID low
 - 52 in geoscience
 - ~30 graduate students
 - 179 EVS
 - These rebound numbers are impressive compared with other Big Ten programs.
- Working with the Sustainability Efforts has caused some issues between Geography (Policy and Planning) and EES, primarily due to decisions being made by people from other programs. It seems the desire is to redraw org charts to reduce duplication; yet those drawing them don't understand the existing differences. Geography and EES are working together to stay separate departments.
 - A School of Environment and Sustainability with two programs: EES and Geography
 - Degree simplification seems to be prioritized, so EES is considering one degree with three tracks. Geography is encouraged to consider the same.

12:00 – 12:15 EES Fundraising Initiatives (Stern, Peate, Blind)

- One Day for Iowa
 - 45 givers, 30th overall, 16th in the College
 - \$10,000 raised, matching funds (\$2,700) are very helpful
 - The Thank You video went out quickly to donors
- Overall Fundraising

- On pace to close this AY as hoped/planned
- EES is at about \$2.6 million of the goal of \$5 million
- New University \$3 billion campaign will launch later this year.
- Needs going forward:
 - Identifying those who can contribute to the Dept, and provide Adam with an introduction

12:15 – 12:30 Mentoring Committee (Ririe)

- Aaron did a great job of putting together the spreadsheet that is used to track student needs
 - Need to clean up the spreadsheet so that we know:
 - who has graduated
 - they could serve as near peer mentors for current needs
 - where they are now
 - new email address
 - Dept could do this
 - Mentors can also make notes
- The dept newsletter has generated some interested students

12:30 – 13:00 Other Business

- Final Comments (All)
 - Round up of meeting notes and priorities were read by Phillips
 - Phillips suggested new board members be at or near retirement to help provide more age balance
 - Homecoming 2023 is on October 7
 - **Next EESB Meeting will be on Friday, October 6**