Minutes: Spring 2021 EESB Meeting: April 9, 2021

Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Alumni Advisory Board

Meeting called to order by Chair, Amy Sullivan at 10:04 CDT using ZOOM

Members participating: Leon Aden, Mike Burkart (Secretary), Rob Decker, Richard Denne, Rhawn Denniston, Melissa Evans, Liz Maas, Lee Phillips, Todd Ririe, Steve Schutter, Grant Smith, Noah Stern, Amy Sullivan (chair), Jennifer Wade

Faculty and staff participating: David Peate, EES Department Chair, Kate Tierney Cramer, Faculty Liaison, Alexandra Geraets, Department Secretary, Emily Finzel, Ben Swanson, Matt Wortel,

Visitors: Adam Blind, Center for Advancement, Ray Anderson

Actions:

- Post "Suggested guidelines for writing a Geode Star biographical sketch" (Schutter, Burkart) Done April 14, 2021
- 2- Commit to role on committees and open offices of Secretary and Vice Chair (All)
- 3- Volunteer to speak before the Environmental Science Seminar Class. (All, Swanson)
- 4- Rhawn Denniston self-nominated for Secretary and confirmed by board Done
- 5- Melissa Evans joined the Nominating and Mentoring Committees
- 6- Noah Stern joined the Mentoring and Alumni Outreach Committee. Done
- 7- Rob Decker volunteered to serve on the Alumni Outreach Committee. Done
- 8- Department will pursue activities to link undergraduate students to EESD. (All members contribute ideas)
- 9- Assure all alumni are notified of the Triennial Alumni Celebration. (Alumni Outreach Committee, Emily Finzel, Adam Blind)
- 10- Book accommodations for October celebration soon (ALL)
- 11- Blind to chat with all EESB members to explain his role.
- 12- Amy will initiate Fundraising Committee meetings after a hiatus since October 2020.
- 13- Todd Ririe will investigate process for "Speed Mentoring" and how we may apply it at events in the department.
- 14- Notify all alumni of the October celebration and activities soon. Sullivan will work with **Finzel** to pass on all announcements through her email list.
- 15- Aden and Blind will plan a special event to get alumni back on campus for the Triennial Day. More details to come.
- 16- Post minutes after adoption by Board (Burkart and Wortel).

Sullivan welcomed all participants and guests. Opening remarks included recognition of Brad Cramer's contributions to EESB while serving as faculty liaison (see attached slide). She also recognized and thanked Kate Tierney Cramer for serving as the new faculty liaison (see attached slide).

Tierney noted that the National Park Filed Trip has been authorized by U Iowa administration for this summer with the lifting of Covid restrictions. The trip will be to northern New Mexico.

The Chair's message included announcement that the Triennial meeting and Alumni Day Celebration will take place October 14-16, 2021. **Ron Blakey** will be honored as the 2021 Distinguished Alumni, and **Joanna**

Thamke will be honored in person as the 2020 Distinguished Alumni. This is a year of transition with **Lee Phillips** taking the Chair at the October 2021 meeting; secretary and alumni outreach chair positions will be vacated in October; and Board membership will drop to 9 (8 voting) if no actions are taken. All Members are asked to step up and decide what their role will be as a member and/or chair of one or more committees and consider self-nomination for secretary and vice-chair. It would be great if members will make their commitments before adjournment today, but at least before the October meeting.

Schutter offered proposed guidelines for Geode Star posting when individuals are drafting biographical sketches. Guidelines are attached to these minutes. **Burkart** will post guidelines on EESD web site.

REVIEW ACTIONS of OCTOBER 23, 2020 MEETING:

(green = done or progress made as noted by Chair prior to meeting)

- Extend invitation to officers of the student clubs, undergraduate and graduate faculty representatives to Board meetings. For this meeting, send them the link to the minutes when they are posted and let them know they are invited to future meetings (Sullivan, Ririe, Cramer). April 2021 meeting notice in EES Weekly Newsletter
- 2. Invite the board by email to make suggestions of topics and/or speakers for Environmental Science Brownbag in the Spring 2020 semester. (Swanson and Finzel). This happened to some extent.
- 3. Continue to maintain a list ENVS resources available to students, particularly for future work in the field of environmental sciences (Ririe). Ongoing in ESS weekly newsletter and seminars (edit tracking is red when I write it but it should be green in final minutes)
- 4. Continue to develop presentations and a list of professional licensing and pathways to professional qualifications to be made available to students (Ririe, Swanson). Ongoing in ESS weekly newsletter and website

The Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam for Certification as a Professional Geologist offered by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ABBOG) is now offered twice a year by GEAT at ISU. More information about registration can be found at https://ge-at.iastate.edu/asbog-fundamentals-of-geology-exam/ or https://ge-at.iastate.edu/asbog-fundamentals-of-geology-exam/ or

Ririe made a presentation to the Environmental Science Seminar Class on February 2, 2021

Swanson is looking for speakers with career experiences to share with class. Board members are encouraged to contact Ben with prospective speakers.

5. Contact Presidents of the EVS and AAPG Student Clubs to update the lists of mentees and reconfirm mentor-mentee relationships (Ririe). Done but will continue to be updated on a semester basis. (in green)

Ongoing.

6. Ben Swanson and Todd Ririe will work work out the plan forward for the Careers Course participants to identify mentor needs. (Ririe and Swanson). Ongoing (in green)

Ongoing.

- 7. Lee Phillips elected as Vice Chair. Sullivan and Phillips will set up monthly calls for transition purposes. In progress – 2 calls with DEO & Liaison, plus file transfer ongoing
- Nominations for 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award due to Sullivan December 1 (All Members). Done Only 1 nominee proposed in 2021

- 9. Forward Joanna Thamke DAA documentation to new board members for their awareness as example evidence in the DAA process. Sullivan- Done 10/24/20
- 10. Establish date and agenda for spring 2021 meeting and update future EESB timeline (Sullivan in consultation with Members). Done draft agenda sent 30 days prior, timeline, updated Feb. 24, 2021
- 11. Forward ESS Strategy Paper to new board members. Sullivan- Done 10/24/20
- 12. Amy will contact all board members whose terms end in October 2021 to determine if they will sit for a second term until Oct. 2024. Done during early February 2021
- 13. Amy to follow up with current Fund Raising Committee (FRC) including Adam, Brad, Leon, Richard and Liz) to see who would like to Chair the FRC. FRC will begin to meet monthly via ZOOM. New Board members encouraged to join FRC. No Action taken by Sullivan
- 14. Post minutes after adoption by Board (Burkart and Wortel). Posted to website Nov. 8, 2020

Sullivan commented on a previous action to determine the date of establishment of the Geology Department at Iowa. No evidence of a specific date establishing the department was found. However, Calvin was made a professor of Geology in 1874. This year is accepted as the establishment of the department. Consequently, the EESB's 2024 Triennial All Alumni Day will be celebrated as the Sesquicentennial of the Department of Geology.

CALL to BOARD SERVICE

A review of members' terms shows that in Oct. 2021 Leon Aden, Mike Burkart, Jennifer Wade will depart after one term. Also, Grant Smith and Steve Schutter will depart after 2 terms on the board. Amy will be on the board as Past Chair starting in Oct. (non-voting). Richard Denne, Lee Philips, Liz Maas and Todd Ririe have agreed to second terms through Oct. 2024. Rob Decker, Rhawn Denniston, Melissa Evans' and Noah Stern's first terms will end Oct. 2023.

Sullivan noted that we will elect a new secretary, Vice Chair, and alumni outreach and nominating committee chairs prior to the October 2021 meeting.

Burkart and Schutter outlined the roles of secretary and alumni outreach committee chair (see attached slides for details).

Sullivan outlined the roles of nominating committee chair and importance of the triennial meeting planning.

Rhawn Denniston self-nominated himself for secretary. A show of hands confirmed Rhawn as the next Secretary His responsibilities will begin with the meeting October 14.

Melissa Evans and Noah Stern volunteered to join nominations committee. (sent email to Noah to confirm which committees)

Lee Phillips will participate on most committees when he assumes the Chair in October.

Rob Decker and Noah Stern volunteered to serve on the alumni outreach committee.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Chairman David Peate

Courses continue to be conducted online and in person.

Introduced **Alexandra (Ali)** Geraets as the new Academic and Office Coordinator taking Chris Harms place, who retired in January.

Some research and travel restrictions have been reinstated and more are expected this summer and fall.

Most courses will be conducted in person this fall.

Personnel changes include:

Faculty lost this year include **Bill Barnhart, Mary Kosloski**, and **Ingrid Ukstins**. **Mark Reagan** will end his phased retirement after the fall semester 2021.

Good news:

Progress is being made to convert **Shamar Chin**'s position to a tenure-track position.

Both interim CLAS dean and University provost were selected for permanent positions. They are Kevin Kregel, named the University of Iowa's executive vice president and provost after serving in the role as interim since July 15, 2020. He will began in the permanent role on Feb. 15. Dr. Sara Sanders serves as the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), as well as its Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

CLAS funding was reduced this year by a total of \$23 million: \$16mil due to enrollment decline and \$7mil in mismanagement by previous Dean.

The Ashton Prairie instrumentation project was funded for \$350,000 by CLAS. This is a site owned by the athletic department near the cross-country course west of Mormon Trek and north of Melrose Blvds. The Paleo Lab building that has fallen into disrepair is being replaced in March 2022 by a newly vacated University building located about halfway to Hills. Tiffany Adrian and Professor of Biology, Joshua (Josh) Weiner, CLAS Associate Dean for Research, have led this effort.

Field Camp will be offered during the summer of 2021, for 3 weeks in late May and early June.

Kate Tierney earned a CLAS Collegiate Teaching Award, which are given each year to faculty who demonstrate outstanding performance in the classroom, laboratory, or studio.

Emily Finzel earned an Excellence in Safety Award to be announced in May

Brad Cramer accepted a new position as Provost's Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This is a 25% appointment position as a CLAS diversity advisor

Jane Gilotti was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for research in Poland.

Covid vaccinations are nearly complete for faculty and staff. Student vaccinations are expected to be complete by the end of this semester.

Teaching "student-hours" are stable this year.

The department is planning efforts to better link undergrads to the department.

The "One Day for Iowa" fundraiser was very successful.

Maas suggested reinstituting the Halloween evening in Trowbridge and the department consider a booth or exhibit during the McBride museum open house as a presence to provide exposure to undergrads and pre-university students.

Phillips commented that it is important to help all students succeed academically. When he was an undergraduate it was understood that mineralogy was a weed-out course, causing many students to fear it and perhaps change major. **Peate** commented that this was no longer the case.

Finzel noted, in response to a question, that students missing field camp last summer will delay graduation until August to fulfill the field camp requirement. This solves the problem of potentially granting exceptions to the requirement, as was previously contemplated.

ALUMNI OUTREACH: Schutter and Sullivan

See attached slide for Alumni Day Celebration 2021 dates and scheduled activities. **Sullivan** expects to see all EESB members October 14.

Heads up for all to book hotel reservations soon. **Adam Blind** affirmed the need to book early, although there are number of new hotels in Coralville since 2019. As of April 12th Ali has secured 10 rooms for the board, DAA and visiting alumni.

Burkart noted that it is important to notify all alumni of the October celebration and activities soon. **Finzel** offered to pass on all announcements through her email list (on Action Item List)

Aden suggested a special effort should be made to get alumni back to campus in general.

Blind offered to use the Center's analytical ability to search alumni data base for names of people who may be important to contact for specific activities or needs. not just fund-raising.

MENTORING COMMITTEE UPDATE: Ririe

Four Environmental Science Students applied for mentoring following Ririe's seminar. However, so far Geoscience students have not expressed interest in mentoring.

The lack of a required course for geoscience majors, such as the ENVS seminar course, makes it more difficult to reach Geoscience students with the opportunity to meet a mentor.

Finzel suggest posting a form online for students to sign up for mentoring. She also suggested the department should consider a seminar similar to the ENVS course for Geoscience students.

Swanson noted there is discussion about adding a requirement for Geoscience majors to join the second semester of the ENVS seminar course.

Phillips suggested articulating the value of mentoring as a good source for a professional reference. To provide a reference, it is necessary to build a relationship between student and mentor through more than just e-mail advice.

Ririe noted he had helped students by editing their resume.

Swanson explained that resumes are part of the exercises during the ENVS seminar.

Sullivan noted that she had contacted, via e-mail, four geoscience students regarding mentoring. Two did not respond; one found mentoring outside U lowa; and one had quite rewarding connection with her.

FUND RAISING: Adam Blind

Giving is generally down, particularly long-term giving.

The One Day for Iowa received donations to EESD from 50 people, three donated more than \$5,000 each. About \$150,000 added to EESD activity since October 2020.

Blind to chat with all EESB members to explain his role.

Looking forward to engaging the EESB committee to obtain more information about individuals with potential for donations.

In response to question from **Sullivan**, **Blind** noted that the University-wide campaign is still planned to launch in 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ririe proposed some action to bring digital theses online. **Tierney** noted that the library has a system to digitize, working back in time with priorities established when requests are made for specific theses.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47.

Respectfully Submitted, Michael Burkart, Secretary Appended: EESB Meeting Photo Meeting Agenda, Provided by Chair Slides used during meeting, Provided by Chair Suggested guidelines for writing a Geode Star biographical sketch, Provided by Steve Schutter

University of Iowa Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Alumni Board Meeting April 8, 2021



Spring 2021 EESB Meeting Final Agenda

Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Alumni Advisory Board

April 9, 2021

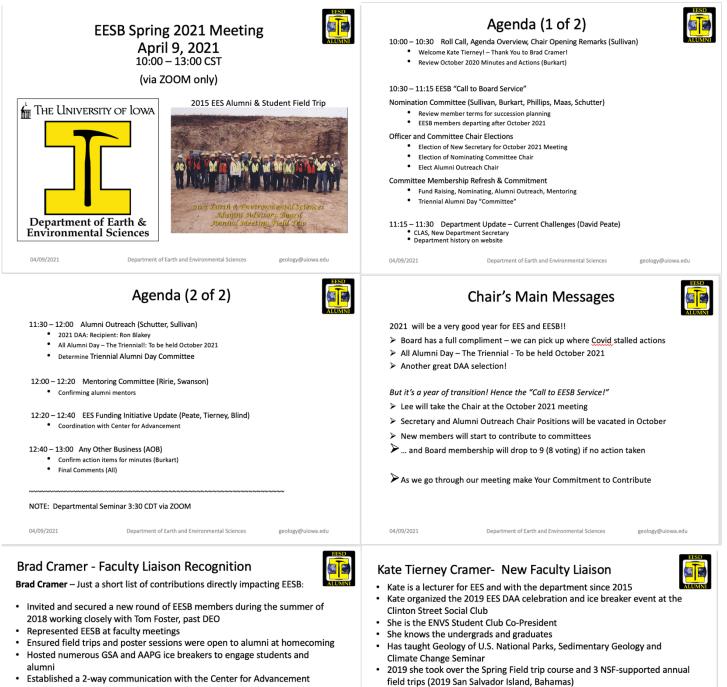
10:00 - 13:00 CST (via ZOOM)

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

- Welcome Kate Tierney! Thank You to Brad Cramer!
- Review October 2020 Minutes and Actions (Burkart)
- 10:30 11:15 EESB "Call to Board Service"

Nomination Committee (Sullivan, Burkart, Phillips, Maas, Schutter)

- Review member terms for succession planning
- EESB members departing after October 2021
- Officer and Committee Chair Elections
 - Election of New Secretary for October 2021 Meeting
 - Election of Nominating Committee Chair
 - Elect Alumni Outreach Chair
- Committee Membership Refresh & Commitment
 - Fund Raising, Nominating, Alumni Outreach, Mentoring
 - Triennial Alumni Day "Committee"
- 11:15 11:30 Department Update Current Challenges (David Peate)
 - CLAS, New Department Secretary
 - Department history on website
- 11:30 12:00 Alumni Outreach (Schutter, Sullivan)
 - 2021 DAA: Recipient: Ron Blakey
 - All Alumni Day The Triennial!: To be held October 2021
 - Determine Triennial Alumni Day Committee
- 12:00 12:20 Mentoring Committee (Ririe, Swanson)
 - Confirming alumni mentors
- 12:20 12:40 EES Funding Initiative Update (Peate, Tierney, Blind)
 - Coordination with Center for Advancement
- 12:40 13:00 Any Other Business (AOB)
 - Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
 - Final Comments (All)



- working closely with Adam Blind. • Held numerous discussions and feedback sessions on the EES future
- strategic plans
 Maintained open and transparent communication with EECE Chair
- Maintained open and transparent communication with EESB Chair on departmental challenges
- Championed diversity within the department (GSA publication, etc.) and moved to position as Provost's Faculty Fellow for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- But most of all <u>Thank You Brad !! For Your Support !</u>

04/09/2021

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

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Research: Permian limestones using lithostratigraphy and stable isotope chemostratigraphy; untangling the problems that have plagued selection of a Global Stratotype Section and Point for the Cisuralian, in particular the

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• Kate <u>Thank You for Joining Our Efforts!</u>

04/09/2021

Kungurian Stage boundary (Spring 2016 newsletter)



Nomination Committee Update

8 members will be able to vote

New committee members needed

October 2021

Minimum on board is 8, maximum is 15, currently 14

 After Oct. 2021: Maas, Phillips, Sullivan (non-voting) · Nominating Committee Chair must be filled

After October 2021 meeting will be 9 members if no action taken; and only

New members should be identified over the summer to begin terms in

Current committee: Burkart, Maas, Phillips, Schutter and Sullivan





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· Bylaws indicate officers may be self-nominated or nominated by the board

Office Elections and Committee Chair Vacancies

- Chair recommends Secretary be nominated and approved for Oct. 2021 meeting (Mike can then transition during the Oct. 2021 meeting)
- Chair Elect will need to be filled at the Oct. 2021 meeting. This can wait until October.
- Fund Raising Needs formal Chair, time for committee to really act
- Nominating Needs formal Chair, Amy led informally over 2020
- Mentoring Todd is Chair
- Alumni Outreach New Chair needed with Steve stepping down

04/09/2021 Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Secretary Responsibilities



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From the By Laws

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e. The duties of the Secretary shall be to maintain minutes of meetings, with particular attention to decisions, and written communications to and from the EESB. Upon approval by the EESB, the Secretary shall transfer meeting minutes and communications to that section of the EESD website assigned to EESB (https://clas.uiowa.edu/ees/alumni-and-friends/ees-alumni-board/documents

This results in these specific activities:

Past notes during meetings and provide draft of minutes for members to respond to and ultimately approve Post minutes on EESB web site maintained by EES web guru, Matt Wortel.

Post and maintain EESB documents on web site as approved by Board. Maintain and file communications. So far, filing separate communications has not been needed. We have not received communications from outside entities. The Board and the Department exchange communications within the context of meetings and those communications are in the minutes.

Converting notes to minutes usually takes 1-1.5 hours following each meeting. I provide a draft to the Chair for review and Amy usually provides substantial additions and corrections. It is often difficult to keep complete and accurate notes, particularly during live meetings and during lengthy discussions. Finalizing edited minutes and attachments actually takes more cumulative time than the time for the initial draft. This could take as much as 3-4 cumulative hours over the 30 days between the meeting and posting of minutes

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

I have been appending revisions to documents, like the By Laws, for posting as a way of simplifying the "archives." I also append slides of the meeting agenda and any slides that committee chairs use in any presentations.

04/09/2021

Committee Membership Refresh & Committment



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- Fund Raising Needs formal Chair, time for committee to really act, membership needs refresh (now Aden, Denne, Maas, Sullivan)
- Nominating Needs formal Chair, Amy led informally over 2020, membership needs refresh
- Mentoring Todd is Chair, committee needs new members
- Alumni Outreach New Chair needed with Steve stepping down Triennial Alumni Day (part of Alumni Outreach) – Not an official committee, Event Chair would ensure Triennial success

04/09/2021

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From the By Laws: Article VI: Committees

04/09/2021

c. The Alumni Outreach Committee will organize and maintain systems for regular communication among alumni and EESD faculty and students, assist in the selection of the Distinguished Alumni Award, and plan the Alumni Day as part of triennial meetings.(<u>https://clas.uiowa.edu/ees/alumni-and-friends/ees-alumni-</u>

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Our charge is to alert the alumni to what the FESD (faculty and students) are up to, and how the alumni can participate and support the department when possible. As much as anything, we are primarily concerned with the appropriate publicity, and secondarily look for opportunities to benefit the alumni, as well as the faculty and students of the EESD.

Supports the Triennial Alumni Day Investigates alternative ways to communicate with alumni

Call to Board Service Discussion

· Any self-nominations for Secretary? • Nominations for Secretary from the board?

04/09/2021

Committee volunteers?

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

