



EARTHLAB

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Faculty Steering Committee Meeting Minutes Spring 2023

Date: April 5, 2023

Location: EarthLab Conference Room or online (ZOOM)

Goals for this meeting:

- Gather input on proposed idea for community listening events and further improvements to grantmaking
- Provide an update on the College's strategic plan process and University Initiatives

Attendees:

- Terrie Klinger
- Ann Bostrom
- LuAnne Thompson
- Maya Tolstoy
- Derek Fulwiler
- Ken Yocom
- Martha Groom
- Jeremy Hess
- Dan Schwartz
- Emily Pahnke
- Mary Dwyer
- Anastasia Ramey
- Ben Packard
- Constance McBarron
- Amy Oakley

Meeting began: 8:33 a.m.

EarthLab updates

The EarthLab core team shared updates on the `EarthLab Innovation Grants Program, applications for the next student internship cohort, and upcoming events.

College of the Environment strategic plan update

Dean Maya Tolstoy shared that we are close to a finished College Strategic Plan and have come to a consensus on two core goals. 1) strengthen community across college to enhance knowledge=across work, foster relationships across college, university and world. 2) build on breadth to catalyze system based approaches and create effective solutions to our effective challenges. The committee has met with external stakeholders and once the plan is finalized, the next step will be to develop an implementation plan.

Discussion: Community listening session planning

EarthLab is reflecting on our grantmaking and programming: what is working and what can be improved to connect UW faculty with community partners. We sought feedback from the FSC on a proposal to host a series of community listening sessions and other ways we can achieve this goal.

- How do we incentivize faculty that are really interested and have capacity to work with the community on climate issues to attend these sessions? Does it differ depending on the partners? Does timing matter?
- What should our new grant mechanism look like in connection with these conversations/learning sessions? An attached funding call to get people in the room? What level of funding?
- What are the current barriers/opportunities at different funding levels?
- If not community listening sessions, how else would you achieve connecting faculty to community partners with early stage support?

The Faculty Steering Committee provided many suggestions for the event, including: connecting with other partners at UW such as the Program on Climate Change and [Cascadia Coast Hub](#) that are already partnering with community; connect with students to draw faculty to the events; and be specific about the types of projects or engagements at the event so as to draw the right UW faculty there. One member suggested inviting the community to look ahead at future capacity needs so the UW has time to develop the appropriate support. Finally, faculty were more interested in a dialogue than a pure listening session.

Regarding granting, there was a wide gap between what some faculty considered high enough to apply for, with the hard sciences and medicine looking for higher amounts. There were some suggestions for EarthLab to provide higher level funding for pilot projects that were successful.

Meeting adjourned: 9:50 a.m.