Earth and Environmental Sciences Alumni Advisory Board (EESB)

Meeting Minutes: October 18, 2019, Room 27, Trowbridge Hall and via Zoom Videoconference

**Action Items for the Board**
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)
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)
7. Revisit and redraft process for DAA nominations (Schutter)
8. Emily Finzel will send an announcement to all alumni with award nomination information from Schutter as soon as she gets it
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?)
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)
13. Develop collaborations with other alumni/groups from Departments contributing to ES Program (Unassigned)

**EESB Meeting**
The Chair (Sullivan) called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

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

Nonmembers participating were David Peate (EESD Chair), Dick Baker (prof. Emeritus), Adam Blind (Center for Advancement liaison), Brad Cramer (Faculty liaison), Andrew Forbes (Coordinator, Environmental Science Program), Emily Finzel, Tom Foster, Chris Harms, Jessie Meyer, Ben Swanson, and Matt Wortel.
**Prof. David Peate**, new chairman for a 5-year term, provided some opening comments: The department currently has 58 Geoscience undergraduate majors and 31 graduate students. In addition, there are 150 Environmental Science undergraduate majors. The ES is exclusively an undergraduate program. The department is expanding field classes and increasing field-elements of laboratory and classroom classes. The new dean, as of May, Dean Steve Goddard, is increasing the number of decisions to be made by departments, rather than the dean’s office- good news. The number of graduate students has been limited by the number of TAs. Future growth will depend on increasing the number of RAs.

**Brad Cramer** added that 20% of the Geoscience majors are in the honors program, a fraction larger than in other college departments.

**Tom Foster** mentioned that there is a threat to no longer fund the summer field camp, meaning an additional $500 per student burden.

**Amy Sullivan** listed accomplishments since our November 2018 meeting:
- Establishing and populating the EESB web page
- Distinguished Alumni Award process was established and functioned well in spite of the short notice
- Plans for this Homecoming week went well and we have a good schedule of events and programs
- Alumni sessions at national meetings have been well attended and show promise for expanding EESB participation

**Environmental Sciences Discussion**

**Prof. Andrew Forbes**, Coordinator of the ENVS program from the Biology Department, was introduced.

* **Mike Burkart** asked for details about any ENVS related student clubs. Mike will meet with Andrew to find a way to engage this/these student groups on behalf of the EESB. Also, ask Liz Maas if she would like to join him in this.

* **Amy Sullivan** noted a need to build a link with the ENVS Program through the EESB web page

Action items from April meeting:

**Mike Burkart** noted that he and **Dick Baker** discussed ideas for including in the by-laws some provision for non-member alumni voting in EESB meeting. No appropriate mechanism was found that did not cause conflict with other elements of the by-laws such as defining a quorum. Consequently, no additions were made to the by-laws that were approved by the EESB earlier this year.

**Leon Aden and Todd Ririe** discussed the need to inform students about licensing that would be helpful for job applications.

* They will develop a list and description of educational licensing opportunities available to students, particularly for future work in the field of environmental sciences. This will be posted on the EESB web page.

**Forbes, Peate, Foster, and Ben Swanson** contributed to a discussion of the Environmental Sciences Seminar held Tuesday’s and 5:00 PM in Room 125, Trowbridge Hall. ES students are required to take this course twice.

* **Ririe** agreed to develop presentations on licensing to be made available to Environmental Science Seminar through **Forbes**.

* **Burkart** agreed to discuss with Forbes appropriate actions to bring ENVS students into contact with local environmental professionals.
Foster mentioned on-line courses/webinars as a mechanism for providing alumni expertise to students. *Liz Maas* is interested in integrating Kirkwood and U Iowa students in collaborative efforts and discussion. Burkart will include Maas in discussions with Forbes on this topic.

**Fund-Raising**

Brad Cramer noted that the Center for Advancement has captured the noun “campaign” for their 2020-2023 fund-raising efforts and would like EESD to use the noun “initiative.” Also, EESD has an earlier schedule to match the 25th (silver) anniversary of the ES Program. EESD is therefor in the “silent” phase of “Funding the Future Initiative.” This is the phase where approximately one-half of the ultimate goal has been pledged. The goal is $5 million. According to Adam Blind, it is common to wait to announce a campaign or initiative until you are well on the way toward a goal. Blind stated that this year’s total for EESD was about $500,000 that will be counted toward the $5 million. The Center for Advancement will announce their campaign during 2022-23 what they have reached 50% of their goal (unstated). Cramer stated that EESD had an objective of publicly announcing their initiative next year during the Triennial activities. Sullivan noted that this gives the Board’s fund-raising committee some context to move forward with our plans. Sullivan will be introduced to Kent Clark, VP Center for Advancement on Saturday, October 19. This introduction will begin a “next steps” dialogue.

Forbes asked how the Board and Department felt about funding going to programs and departments outside the EESD. Foster noted that is already happening to support activities in other departments and will continue.

**Strategic Plan**

Peate stated that the final is due at some date in April. New hires need to be reflected of needs stated in the plan. Cramer stated that the department was still waiting for a new format and that the draft sent to Board members was essentially unchanged waiting for additional requirements from the dean’s office.

Burkart asked if and how the department wanted input to the plan from board. Comments and suggestions will be welcome. Sullivan suggested using the strategic objectives to support funding initiative. Aden suggested including specifics or a keystone departmental project that will provide incentive to give donors opportunities to provide funds.

*Burkart* will coordinate Board comments/input to Chairman David Peate.

**Distinguished Alumni Award**

Sullivan stated a need for Board involvement to: improve the process; and provide nominations.

Steve Schutter wants to make it easier to nominate by reducing paperwork requirements. Foster suggested that the more the award is known to be awarded the more forthcoming nominations will be. Ririe suggested the current awardee information be posted on the web page and included in the newsletter so the broader alumni group knows the details. It is necessary to have information about the nominees 6-8 months in advance (April) of the award date (October) in order to 1- vote on the awardee and 2- inform and invite the awardee.

*Schutter* will manage the nominating process and Board members and others should send at least a name of the nominee to Schutter by November. He will revisit the nomination page to reflect this discussion.

*Emily Finzel* will send an announcement to all alumni with award nomination information from Schutter as soon as she gets it because the fall newsletter will not be put together in time to elicit names.

**Mentoring Committee**
Ririe noted that the top 10 goals presented at the April meeting needed implementation. A discussion about licensing was conducted, centered around the 40-hour OSHA safety course. Kirkwood offers this and students at U Iowa should be encouraged to take this to help in their job applications. Jessie Meyer sends her students to this in order for them to work at her field sites. Also, she noted that the Hydro field camp at Central Michigan included the OSHA course. Cramer noted that most ENVS students do not go into academics, but rather private companies and local governments. Consequently, mentoring for as non-academic future might be in greater demand. Ririe noted that a one-0hour webinar about what is out there would be good once we knew interests of students through a student survey. Forbes stated that we need to weigh including these ideas in the ENVS seminar series compared to developing a persistent web presence. There is a possibility of turning off ENVS students not interested in these topics early in their studies. Swanson and Peate both noted that we need to find a way to make the students aware of available training that is not specifically scheduled. Their experience is that most students would not participate.

*Ririe will develop questionnaire/survey to elicit from students the needs and desires for potential mentoring by alumni.

Sullivan introduced Matt Wortel and thanked him for producing the DAA plaque.

Outreach Committee

*Schutter urged board members to help him populate Geostars. Suggested names included historical and recent faculty. Schutter suggest building a web catalog of alumni with information about degree date, advisor, current location, expertise, and e-mail address. This will help in finding additional EESB members, but particularly to replace current members. This proposal was not accepted at this time.

*Some discussion evolved that we need to develop collaborations with other alumni/groups from Departments contributing to ES Program. No one jumped in as a volunteer to investigate this. Sullivan will follow-up with Emily and Adam to see what the Center for Advancement has as links we can utilize between Biology, Geography, Chemistry departments etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 and sack lunches were distributed.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Burkart, Secretary

The meeting Agenda is appended.
Fall 2019 EESB Meeting Agenda
Earth and Environmental Sciences Department Alumni Advisory Board
October 18, 2019

9:00 – 12:00 CST (via ZOOM and Trowbridge 27)
Note: TH Conference Room reserved all day for EESB

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda Overview, Chair Opening Remarks (Sullivan)

9:15 – 9:30 Drop the Mic! Get reacquainted

9:30 – 9:45 Review April 2019 Minutes and Actions (Burkart)

9:45 – 10:15 Fund the Future Campaign Kickoff (Cramer & Blind, EESB Committee)

10:15 – 10:30 EESD Strategic Plan (Cramer)
  • Update, Tie to Fund the Future, Faculty Authors; EESB input?
  • Further discussion EESB, David Peate, and faculty

10:30 – 10:50 Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) (All)
  • New nominees, Feedback on process, website page created

10:50 – 11:10 Mentoring Committee (Ririe, Cramer, Ben Swanson and Andrew Forbes)
  • Careers Course and Environmental Science (ENVS)
  • Feedback from Faculty and Students

11:10 – 11:25 Alumni Outreach (Schutter)
  • Recruitment process for EESB nominees – selection during 2020 for 2021

11:25 – 11:35 EESB Website Development (Sullivan)

11:35 – 12:00 Any Other Business (AOB)
  • Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
  • AAPG Student Chapter Support (Sullivan)
  • Educational License Proposal (Aden)
  • Spring 2020 Planning (All)
  • Final Comments (All)

BOX LUNCH NEAR END OF MEETING ~11:30

Post-EESD Seminar – Informal downtown gathering
will be held for EESB, other alumni, EESD Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students
EESD Fall 2019 Meeting
October 18, 2019
9:00 – 12:00 CST
(via ZOOM and Trowbridge 27)

Agenda (1 of 2)

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  • Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
  • AAPP Student Chapter – request for Alumni engagement
  • Educational License Proposal (Aden)
  • Final Comments (All)

BOX LUNCH KNEEP END OF MEETING ~ 11:00
5:30 – 7:30 Post-EESO Seminar – Clinton St. Social Club – 18 ½ Clinton Street
All invited EESO, other alumni, EESB Faculty, Staff and Graduate Students

Review April 2019 Minutes and Actions 2 of 2

10: Board to confirm availability for October 18, 2019 meeting (All EESB)
11. Sullivan, Cramer, Foster, and Peate to develop Oct. 2019 meeting agenda covering Wed. – Sun. a.m. and include CLAS Fellows events.
12. Sullivan and Cramer will provide EESB dates for EESO Departmental Calendar for posting by Wortel on website. The link to the website is: https://clas.uiowa.edu/ees/alumni-and-friends/ees-alumni-board
13. Sullivan and Cramer will determine an interim meeting date for Fundraising Committee meeting.
14. Aden will prepare a proposal supporting the educational license proposal and Ririe will provide a list of free environmental science software (API or EPA).
15. Cramer will post EESO brochure at the website.
16. Mentoring Committee to meet immediately following this meeting. Discussion on outstanding items

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

• The Importance of Nouns
• Silent Phase is NOW
• 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
EESD Strategic Plan (Cramer)

- Strategic Plan for Department largely finished in 2019
- New Dean of CLAS
- New CLAS Strategic Plan is now being created
- Dean wants all Departments to have a strategic plan that follows a common format.
- SWOT
- We are now in the process of receiving the new ‘CLAS’ format and will rework the strategic plan accordingly.
- Timeline to finish hopefully by end of Fall Semester 2019.

Distinguished Alumnus Award (Schutter)

- 2019 - John Eiler
- 2020 Nominations
- Board volunteers to vet nominees
- Feedback on DAA Selection Process
- DAA process is on website
- Bio on Website – requested from Eiler Oct. 11th

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

- Progress to Date – Ririe/Cramer
- Recent Expansions of the Careers Course – Swanson/Forbes
- Next steps for revisiting the objectives/focus of careers course – All
- Additional opportunities for Mentoring (AAPG Student Club, etc.) – Sullivan
- Training for Mentors on current University Policies - Cramer

Alumni Outreach (Schutter)

The goal of the committee is to connect Iowa EES alumni to the department and to each other, and to facilitate information flow among alumni, faculty and students.

- Recruitment process for incoming EESB nominees
- Triennial Alumni Day – October, 2020
- Determine actual date for new board to take helm (1/1/2021?)

- Iowa theses online
- Iowa Geode Stars – two posted
- Short courses for faculty/students/alumni
- Short courses by faculty/students/alumni

ALUMNI OUTREACH COMMITTEE GOALS AND INITIATIVES

The goal of the committee is to connect Iowa EES alumni to the department and to each other, and to facilitate information flow among alumni, faculty and students.

- Alumni outreach
- Distinguished Alumnus Award
- Iowa Geode Stars
- Triennial Alumni Day – October, 2020
- Alumni contact spreadsheet (website)
- Iowa theses online
- Short courses for faculty/students/alumni
- Short courses by faculty/students/alumni

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

- DAA process on website
- John Eiler for 2019
- Bio on website?
- Physical award
EESB Website (Sullivan)

- Mentoring page – Yet to be developed
- Alumni Rock Stars – Done – THANKS to STEVE !!
- DAA – In progress
- Field Camp Memories – Yet to be developed
- Main Library digital link
- Other suggestions
  - AAPG Student Chapter

Confirm Action Items (Burkart)

- List here

Any Other Business (All)

- Confirm action items for minutes (Burkart)
- AAPG Club Support (Sullivan)
- Educational License Proposal (Aden)
- Spring 2020 Planning (All)
- Final Comments (All)

AAPG Student Chapter (Sullivan)

- President – Justin Rosenblum
- VP - Matthew Trembath

- Our AAPG chapter is looking for speakers to come and have lunch/dinner with the club. I was talking to several people and thought it would be a good idea to bring in professional geologists that are alumni to talk to us about their careers and what young geologists are doing to get into them. I was wondering if there was a list of alumni that would be interested in doing this (so I could contact them). I thought about doing it once a month, this could change depending on interest.
Educational License Proposal (Aden)

- Is the EESS pursuing this at this time? Is this going to happen as part of "Fund the Future"
- Benefits to students: applying geoscience principles; integrating geoscience sub-disciplines; exploring geologic alternatives
  - Query, qualify, and define risk elements vs. uncertainty elements
- Benefits to research in basin, structural, and stratigraphic modeling
  - Examine responses to input assumptions or input variations
- Current applications in the Department
- Candidate applications
  - Easy to use/ready to learn (at least basic components); or one that someone has used so they could teach others
- Does anyone have an established connection with any software provider?
- Fit with Strategy and Next steps

Spring 2020 Meeting – Planning (Sullivan)

- Availability for Spring Meeting: Thursday April 9, 2020
- Call for Agenda Items

Reminder: BiG Alumni Day(s) -
- 2020 – Oct 23 (Oct 24 Northwestern)
- Plan Ahead
- Expect 100% attendance

Final Comments