EarthLab Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Spring 2023

Date: May 22, 2023
Location: UW Waterfront Activities Center

Goals for this meeting:
● Provide updates on EarthLab programs
● Solicit advice on 2024 community engagement efforts
● Connect AC members to staff, advisors, grantees and member organizations

Attendees:
● Trish Millines Dziko
● Chip Giller
● Chloe Harford
● Gretchn Hund
● Sally Jewell
● Savitha Reddy Pathi
● Chukundi Salisbury
● Jamie Stroble
● Maya Tolstoy
● Bob Whitener
● Monica Limon Conte
● Mary Dwyer
● Constance McBarron
● Jessica Nagtalon
● Ben Packard
● Kathleen Phan
● Kearstin Williams

Meeting began: 3:05 p.m.

Chair Sally Jewel started with a land acknowledgement and introductions.

Update: College of the Environment strategic plan
Dean Maya Tolstoy provided an update to the council regarding the nearly final College of the Environment strategic plan and thanked Sally and Ben for their involvement. There was a discussion about how EarthLab is included in the vision for the College’s impact and culture. The Advisory Council were interested in the future of the College and EarthLab, with questions around the College’s approach to AI, strategy for big endowments such as the Doerr gift to Stanford, and plans for community engagement and impact.
The council discussed the plans for the UW to reach decarbonization goals and the energy students have on the issue of climate change. Would there be a way to more overtly have programs within the college to equip students to be engaged citizens?

Member Organization Spotlight: Center for Health and the Global Environment (CHanGE)
Dr. Jeremy Hess had a last minute conflict and was unable to present.

Discuss: Fall Community Engagement Discussions
EarthLab is scoping a series of related but separate events, to be co-hosted by partners in different sectors such as 1) community organizations & nonprofits, 2) Tribes, 3) Public sector - federal, state, local governments and 4) Private sector. The purpose of these sessions would be to create a space where community organizations can share their climate priorities and for “UW” to listen, learn and connect them with the various resources and collaborators that may exist at UW. EarthLab shared some questions for discussion:

● What are your general reactions to this idea?
● If not this idea, what other kinds of convenings?
● Specifically regarding community organizations/nonprofits, what should we consider when we approach our current community partners?
● Specifically regarding community organizations/nonprofits, what types of funding support would be helpful and at what level?
● For example: Grants, fellowships & internships, sponsorships
● Final thoughts?

The Advisory Council was interested in the premise of the idea and shared some insights and advice, including:

● Make sure this event is about what EarthLab/UW can provide to the community, not what you are getting from the community.
● Pick 1 or 2 topics where you can do a deeper dive about what is coming out of UW research and how that is valuable to them.
● Remember you are in their space and they should not feel uncomfortable in their space. Approach and delivery are key.
There's still work to do to build trust. The College and EarthLab should be showing up at community events. Sponsor a table and actually show up.

Can you host an event on the Inflation Reduction Act? What is going on, convenings going on at the state level. Help community organizations understand the different rebates and tax credits and how to get the money where it is needed.

Consider hosting events based on geographies, not sectors.

Consider making the sectors even smaller. Recognize that there is a need for spaces for BIPOC-led organizations and smaller nonprofits that don't have capacity and have challenges. You can't show up unless you say what you have to offer and figure out where our priorities align.

Meet in person with culturally relevant food and child care. Think about accessibility and location and transportation.

Determine what your goals are. What is the criteria? Communities that haven't been engaged yet? Communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change, both engaged or not? Partners that have access to the money who are in between?

It would be nice to have a map of how we network and where we are already engaged. Both at EarthLab, College and UW level. But be careful about sharing that data.

Go slow, it's going to be real slow. Have a lot of patience until you get your first few meetings going and feeling good. Then pick up the pace and word will spread.

**Adjourned at:** 5:04 p.m.