Advisory Board of Deans Meeting Minutes
Winter 2023

Date: January 11, 2023
Location: EarthLab Conference Room and online (Zoom)

Goals of this meeting:
● Update Deans on current programs/priorities
● Solicit feedback on growing interdisciplinary connections on climate
● Discuss EarthLab financial model

Attendees:
● Nancy Allbritton
● Joel Baker
● Anind Dey
● Renee Cheng
● Hilary Godwin
● Dianne Harris
● Frank Hodge
● Jodi Sandfort
● Mike Spencer
● Maya Tolstoy
● Mia Tuan
● Mary Dwyer
● Constance McBarron
● Jessica P Nagtalon
● Ben Packard
● Anastasia Ramey

Meeting began: 4 p.m.

Discuss: Sparking Climate Connections: UW Lightning Talks Event
The EarthLab core team shared highlights from the recent Sparking Climate Connections event. The Board of Deans shared enthusiasm for the event’s success and high participation and praised the events team for their work editing the videos and providing technical support to the speakers. It was noted that connections between speakers have already been made because of the event and there is desire for EarthLab to continue hosting opportunities across the tri-campus for convening and connection on climate change.

Discuss: EarthLab community engagement
The EarthLab core team shared early thoughts about hosting a listening session for community organizations to share their perspectives in the gaps in climate research. The Board provided several points of feedback including:
• Be clear on the purpose of the engagement with the community and what value it provides them. Make sure to ask and listen to their ideas and what they need. They should be in the driver’s seat.
• Ensure they are being funded adequately and payment isn’t a burden.
• Faculty and researchers are eager to partner with the community but many people need to be trained in etiquette and community-based research principles.
• Idea: EarthLab could organize a deep-dive event inviting members of the climate community to talk to faculty and researchers about how to partner well. Follow up with summer workshops and social mixers, leading to a bigger fall quarter community listening event.
• Tap into the University Initiative community engagement funds for these efforts.

Discuss: Diversifying funding for EarthLab
As EarthLab is a cross-university institute/resource, EarthLab is seeking ideas for stabilizing EarthLab’s funding model with support from around the university. The Beans find value in and are willing to contribute to EarthLab but they feel the “pass the hat” model upholds a broken funding system that we’re trying to fix. Instead, the Beans were in agreement to submit a letter of support for EarthLab to apply for the Provost’s re-investment funds, due March 17, 2023.

Feedback: How should we bring the faculty community together again this academic year? This topic was not discussed due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned: 5:30 p.m.