Advisory Board of Deans Meeting Minutes 
Spring 2023

Date: May 31, 2023
Location: EarthLab Conference Room and online (Zoom)

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

Meeting began: 3:35 p.m.

EarthLab update
The EarthLab core team shared updates on new hiring, the upcoming financial transformation, the summer student internship programs and recent events.

Discuss: UW Community Engagement Initiative
President Cauce recently directed a gift toward building capacity for community engagement at UW. EarthLab is keen to engage and support this effort to advance community based participatory research (CBPR) among other activities. EarthLab learned that the university initiatives working group is developing action areas and opportunities for UW faculty and staff to connect to this work. Many of the deans suggested that Earthlab get involved across different areas including administrative/financial mechanisms and faculty training. Other suggestions included EarthLab hosting a symposium on best practices for community-based/transdisciplinary research, defining what it means to collaborate,
incorporating this work into student programming, and centring communities throughout. There was also a discussion about the different definitions of community and different community norms based on the discipline/unit and a reminder about the upcoming changes in the UW faculty senate that will now recognize community based research as part of the university tenure incentive structure.

Discuss: Reassessing EarthLab Innovation Grants
EarthLab has awarded $2M+ in grant funding to 22 teams over the last four years. We are challenging ourselves to improve our grant program for greater community impact. We will continue to fund early-stage, transdisciplinary collaborations at the intersection of climate change and social justice. The team posed questions for feedback, including:

- What more could we do to shape our grantmaking around community-driven priorities?
- Should we consider awarding fewer, larger grants or more, smaller grants? A combination of these?

The Board of Deans posed several clarifying questions including asking if previous grantees have had success raising funds to continue or scale their projects and what is the ultimate goal for the grants program. There was some energy around supporting junior faculty with tiers of funding or connecting to each other or senior faculty. Many deans support the idea of providing more training for all faculty to do this work well, such as learning what authentic community listening is. A new idea that was posed was to consider new grants for non-research faculty, such as curriculum redesign or connecting with K-12 educators.

Meeting adjourned: 4:53 p.m.