EarthLab Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Autumn 2023

Date: October 26-27, 2023
Location: UW Pack Forest

Attendees:
- Chloe Hartford
- Gretchen Hund
- Kate Janeway
- Sally Jewell
- Trish Millines Dziko
- Diani Taylor
- Chukundi Salisbury
- Bob Whitener
- Maya Tolstoy
- Ben Packard, EarthLab
- Sarah Lindner, EarthLab
- Constance McBarron, EarthLab
- Anastasia Ramey, EarthLab
- Kearstin Williams, EarthLab

THURSDAY – October 26

Meeting began: 5:06 p.m.

Welcome and connection:
Chair Sally Jewell began the meeting with a land acknowledgement specific to Pack Forest. Advisory Council members paired up and reconnected over an ice-breaker exercise.

EarthLab updates:
The EarthLab core team shared updates on operations, programs, communications, and impact.

Member organization spotlight: Greg Bratman, Director of Nature and Health
Dr. Bratman shared his path to studying the connection between nature and health and well-being, information about an NIH-funded research study he led in Pack Forest
over the past summer (results forthcoming), and his hopes for building the *Nature and Health* research community and influencing policies that can improve health outcomes.

**FRIDAY – October 27**

**DISCUSS: Community Partnership Project**

EarthLab is scoping a community-of-practice program to facilitate connections between community partners and UW faculty. The council broke out into two groups to discuss the following questions:

- What do we call it? How can we empower the community through the naming of this program?
- Who participates and why?
- What are the topics, themes, etc. for a program like this?
- How can we facilitate a space for community leaders to show up as their authentic self?

Each of the breakout groups shared their top two takeaways with the full group:

- Clarify the definition of “community.” Does this mean community-based organizations (CBO)? If not, rename it. (We intend to serve CBOs in this program.)
- Host an open house event to broaden the scope for potential partners, who have their own knowledge but may want to know more about how to frame their needs to attract research funding.
- Be clear about the benefits and expectations through the naming of the program and the examples used to build awareness. Many people are skeptical about university research in general due to the historic and current invasive research still practiced by many in academia.
- In terms of who should be there and how we should structure the fellowship, we were asked to consider geography - for example, should this be a statewide effort to include rural issues? Consider planning fewer, full day meetings (as opposed to more frequent shorter meetings) so people who are traveling are more able to attend.

**University Initiative on Climate with Lisa Thomas, senior associate vice president, advancement strategy and campaigns**

Lisa shared an update on how the University of Washington is planning a new initiative on climate change, with the hope of attracting a transformative gift to accelerate and connect climate change research, service, and teaching across the
University. The university is considering developing several “ready made” ideas that could authentically attract big funding and are ready to scale. EarthLab is one of those ideas. There was energy around the idea to reiterate that the UW is a public institution to serve a public good and we are excellent at research, which sets us apart from private universities.

**Spring EarthLab Showcase - A Donor & Friend Cultivation Event**
The Advisory Council provided feedback on an idea to host an event featuring first-hand stories of impact with current and potential donors. The Council agreed that the event should feature the people and students who are doing the work and the program should give them enough time to get into some depth on their projects/programs and the impact of EarthLab on their work. Consider regionally relevant work that can scale. For the venue, consider a UW venue that’s off campus such as the Arboretum or Shellhouse. The advancement team is still determining if this will be a larger event to raise awareness and build a community of support or an intimate event with more potential for giving in the near future.

**Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Prevention**
Peter Rabinowitz shared why he’s excited to partner with EarthLab on a new grant application to the National Science Foundation, which if funded, would award $15M over 7 years to a new interdisciplinary center based in EarthLab dedicated to using artificial intelligence to better understand and predict pandemics caused by the changing climate and ecosystems.

**Continued engagement with EarthLab**
The Council shared reflections on the meeting and a desire for access to more stories of impact to share, opportunities to meet virtually in between in-person meetings, and EarthLab swag to display. An idea was shared to host optional field trips to research locations across the state.

**Meeting adjourned:** 2:58 p.m.