College of the Environment Curriculum Committee  
Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2016  
2:00-3:30 PM, Ocean Sciences Building, Room 203 (Dean’s Office suite conference room)

Present:

- Aquatic & Fishery Sciences – Kerry Naish
- Atmospheric Sciences – Becky Alexander
- Earth & Space Sciences – Drew Gorman-Lewis
- Friday Harbor Laboratories – Megan Dethier
- Oceanography – Susan Hautala
- Program on the Environment – Clare Ryan
- Graduate Student Representative – Emma Hodgson (Aquatic & Fishery Sciences)
- CoEnv Dean’s Office (ex officio) – Michelle Hall
- Guests: Miles Logsdon, Oceanography; Steven Walters, Earth & Space Sciences

1. Drew Gorman-Lewis presented a new course proposal, ESS 597 “Applied Geoscience Investigations” (for students in the Applied Geosciences master’s program), and the committee approved the proposal.

2. Megan Dethier presented a new course proposal, FHL 333 “Special Topics,” and the committee approved the proposal.

3. The committee discussed how to respond to a December 2015 UW Curriculum Committee request to review proposed new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) courses in Urban Planning for content overlap and equivalency issues with existing GIS courses. Miles Logsdon (Oceanography) and Steven Walters (Earth & Space Sciences) joined the meeting to provide GIS curriculum expertise.

- Logsdon offered an overview of past efforts to coordinate GIS curriculum within the College of the Environment, which led to a 2012 white paper on “Geospatial Information Literacy for the Environmental Sciences.” Since 2012, some key GIS faculty have retired, the technology and software licensing have changed, and Suzzallo Library now provides server space for digital content and some technical support via a helpdesk. Student demand for spatial literacy continues to grow, with approximately 300 students annually enrolling in College of the Environment GIS courses.
- Oceanography, Earth & Space Sciences, and Environmental & Forest Sciences faculty continue to collaborate to coordinate content; Logsdon and Walters agreed to meet with other GIS faculty within the College to review the proposed new URBDP GIS courses and provide a response to the UW Curriculum Committee regarding content overlap and equivalency.
- The committee discussed related ideas for creating a variety of spatial literacy modules that could be included in various introductory disciplinary courses, perhaps exploring a large introductory course on “big data,” or creating a set of special topics course
numbers for students to complete spatial data projects (currently done via independent study course numbers).

4. Next steps and action items:
   • Hall will coordinate with Logsdon and Walters to schedule a meeting with CoEnv GIS faculty to review the URBDP course proposals for equivalency.

5. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.