

**Bioenvironmental Sciences Professional Board**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Meeting Minutes -**  
**APPROVED**  
**Friday, March 31, 2023**

8:15 am Arrive **PLPM 3rd floor large conference room – Room 306**

8:30 am Welcome and bring meeting to order –*Coy Crain*

- Dr. Shim department update
  - Powerpoint presentation
  - The DFW STEM expo was a great success. The success was for the education component, not a recruiting effort.
  - High impact learning summary. \$750K awarded over 5yrs. 150k yr. over half of students must be from outside TAMU. Program Interface of Plant, Microbial, and Bioenvironmental Sciences (IPMB). The application rate is ahead of other peer programs (i.e., BURIS?) per Chappel. They can host 20 students.
  - Study abroad program (reciprocal exchange). There were no applicants for this year. They are doing some post application evaluation. TAMU is still #1 in US for study abroad program.
  - Faculty Affairs. Ebbole retired and 2 additional professors retiring in July. They were approved for an additional instructional assistant professional. Looking for someone degreed in enviro science and engineering. Looking for board support from 2 or 3 people in the position search committee. 90% teaching and 10% service. Looking for Aug/Sept timeframe. BESC 402 bioremediation, 415?, and 365 enviro regs. Jim, Matt, Catlyn, Coy potential board support.
  - Microbiome research looking for 3 hires across the college; 2 new professors to join program expected by January
  - Current department head search, Bo Won Shim has applied as candidate, process to begin soon.
  - Crowdfunding month of March fundraiser, all money raised to go to scholarships, Bo Won Shim to update on routing of funds, hope to make annual event. So far there is nothing shown as donated, but this is incorrect and requires correction by the association.
- Faculty liaison updates –
  - Kati Stoddard – looking into pending partnership with San Antonio ISD, USDA grant for student, looking for partners in higher education for STEM education K-college
  - AgriLife posted article about BESC program featuring Kati Stoddard with some recent graduate interviews. Follow up article will be coming. AgriLife story including John, Dr. Stoddard, and MaryKay contact. A follow-up interview will go out in April. This was shared via Instagram.
  - Craig – question regarding how far down the chain to do outreach. Bo Won Shim - start with late elementary to junior high school, outreach to counselors, teachers who may influence student decisions to take environmental science courses; discussion on women in STEM and targeting middle school students; consider having a TAMU booth at the next event

**Quorum Reached:** In attendance: Eric Ables, Juan Ludwig, Andie Marsh, Coy Crain, Samantha Best, Rachel Ludicke, Brittany Westphal, Matt Zidek, Jim Formby (ex-officio), Harrison Ireland, Craig Holloway (ex-officio), John Soarkness, Christina Higginbotham, Caroline Ask, Randall Hodo, Caitlyn Wilding.

Not Present: Wally Zverina, Cedric Robinson, Leslie Loveless, Heather Podlipny, Ana Partin, Candice Boeck

Ex-Officios Not Present: Doug Anderson, Jamie Bryan, Dawn Steph, Joel Trouart, Kenneth Tramm, Beth Everage, Laura Fiffick, Bryan Gay

Staff: Won Bo Shim, Sam Murdock, Kati Stoddard, Tom Chappell, Sandy

- Approval of previous meeting minutes-Sam motioned for approval, Caroline seconded, motion passes.
- Fall Meeting date discussion – tentatively November 3, 2023 – with watch party

9:25 am                      Committee Reports – allow ~ 20 minutes each

### **FDOM Committee Report**

- Jamie left but Brittany, Andie, Caitlin, Juan have been able to re-establish the intent of the FDOM committee. Outreach perceived to be included. Have been figuring out what works and what doesn't work.
- Caitlin tracking dues
- Working towards transparency on where funds go
- Andie put email together for crowdfunding drive, will improve on outreach and networking.

### **SDM**

- John Soarkness update - Mock interviews and resume workshop was yesterday 3/30. Only 6 students of 25 participated. More and more difficult to have student commit and attend. Most interested in environmental science position.
- Hosted networking/social at the Tap with at least 25 attendees who stayed for the duration.
- Students not signing up because they are scared or nervous; Kati provided feedback that students feel the open atmosphere is more approachable. Be sure to remind students they are interviewing to make sure it is a good fit for them. Interviews at BESC building was nice.
- Will continue to post environmental professions workshop in the fall, and resume/mock interviews in the spring. Try to soften invitation.
- Sandy suggested taking one session of 423 course to discuss interviewing skills, which may help
- Craig – Vmock contact; action verbs
- Christina – externship discussion
- 484 – internship requirement; 481 – trying to communicate skill set
- 10 Linked In job postings to date this year
- 496 Linked In members
- John suggested perhaps including sophomores and juniors (300 level course) for resume workshop as quiz grade

### **Curriculum Development**

- 1-9-23 Article – Website Coy emailed Heather information from ITRC to send to Dr. Chappell. Coy/Heather
- 1-23-23 Misc - Keynote speaker discussion via email. Coy proposed Bruce Broberg, ESG with TRC. (Coy) From fall meeting, Aaron Geyer suggested Sarah Schlessinger – Texas Runs on Water, CEO – Recommendation by Aaron for Curriculum Committee to reach out. UT Dept of Geology – Dr. Katherine Romanek expressed interest, carbon sequestration.
- 2-4-23 Misc- Participation at the Dallas ISD STEM Expo. (Dr. Shim and his wife, Aaron, Brittany, Cedric, Heather, Rachel)
- 2-15-23 Misc - An A&M student emailed Heather with questions about the TCEQ internship program and general job-seeking advice for recent graduates. Heather responded back via email. Heather Craig and Jim met with an AP science teacher in Austin ISD who was very receptive to allow guest speakers in the classroom regarding BESC; full class schedule. 25 minute presentation. Considering small case study with basic information to hot interest. Craig – 3 outreach to teachers

10:30 Biobreak

10:47 am Review New Board Member Nominations and vote.

- Review roll-off plan (attached)
  - Members who roll off in Fall 2023 (\* wish to be re-nominated):
 

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Candice Boeck	1 <sup>st</sup> (Break)
Eric Ables	1 <sup>st</sup> *
Brittany Westphal	1 <sup>st</sup> *
- Awards given to board members who are rolling off
- Procedures for nomination and voting (as detailed in Spring 2015 minutes)
  - Names submitted for consideration that are not selected will be brought to the Board twice; if they are not selected after two years, they will be dropped off the nomination list. They are eligible to be re-submitted at any time.
  - 3 rollofs, 6 slots becoming vacant; no official rule but guidance would be 4 years, retain candidates.

Nominee	Nominator	BESC Graduate
Alice Tabor*	Cedric Robinson	
Jim Coleman*	Coy Crain	
Keith Jordan*	Self-Nomination	1997 BESC program; Mgr of HSE for Oxy
John Gonzalez	Self-Nominated (2022)	BESC Graduate 2015; renewable energy consultant with Wood PSC; T&E, due diligence
John Wilson	Leslie Loveless (2022)	Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences Graduate 2007; VP at NTG Environmental
Michelle Kirchman*	Craig Holloway	BESC Graduate 2020
Eric Ables*	John Soarkness (renominated)	
Brittany Westphal*	Juan Ludwig (renominated)	

11:30 am Lunch

12:20 pm New Member Results

- Alice Tabor
- Jim Coleman
- Keith Jordan
- Michelle Kircshman
- Eric Ables
- Brittany Westphal  
(returning)

12:25 pm

Other Meeting Business

- Committee Summer/Fall Outlooks
  - TCEQ Trade Fair
    - NAEP officers coordinate attendance – Tom Chappell and Susi Dai are faculty coordinators
    - Discussed students meeting BESC reps for lunch
  - Keynote address? – who invites?
  - Deputy director w/ National Weather Service
    - Houston response to Hurricane Harvey
    - TFMA
    - Carbon sequestration
    - Leadership focus
    - City of Fort Worth – Roger Grantham
    - Discussion about covering speaker travel expenses?
  - Membership donations
- BESC poster Symposium
- Tailgate – coming year will not be a home game; Doug to provide food?
- Other Items for Discussion
  - **Action:** Juan to work with Dr. Shim to get a current balance on discretionary funding; revisit strategy on fundraising; check with Katy Ellison on funding access
  - Recognize current NAEP officers

1:15 pm

Sam Best motioned to adjourn meeting;  
Rachel Ludieke seconded motion.  
Meeting adjourned.