

**Subject:** Water Center faculty advisory board

**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 8:59:53 AM Central Standard Time

**From:** Schaeffer, Jeffrey

**To:** Smith-Andrews, Sandra

**CC:** Stretz, Holly

Sandy,

I would like to form a Water Center internal advisory board during the upcoming semester. This would be composed primarily of faculty, but I would not mind adding two graduate students as well once the board is formed. After much reflection, I would like to ask for five volunteers from the Faculty Senate to help with this service. I am looking specifically at the Senate because we need experienced people who have full understanding of the idea of service and looking out for the needs of others. The five members need to represent as many different colleges and departments as possible, but aside from that the only qualifications would be an avowed interest in water resources and issues and a belief in shared governance and consensus building.

The board would commence with a draft charter subject to input from the group, but the overall purpose of the board would be to: 1) assist the Water Center in connecting faculty interested in mission-critical research, science synthesis, and communication, 2) advising the Center Director on University processes and evaluating and critiquing proposed new initiatives, and 3) thinking of ways that the Water Center can enhance the student experience at Tennessee Tech. Paraphrased, I need some help to make sure that the Center is doing the right things in the right way. We are also an independent center and want to make sure that we are engaging as many people as possible in a fair and equitable manner.

Initially, I would like to request a one-year commitment with an additional year added at request if people find it rewarding. I would try to keep the time required to one meeting a month, with as few email strings as we can manage. At some point we need to rotate people in and out because service can't go on in perpetuity, but for now I am focused on getting things up and running. I also need to form an external advisory board that would meet once annually and advise us about long-term goals and strategic vision. That will occur during 2020, but I believe that we need to be organized internally first.

If you would be so kind, please consider this idea and talk about it with the Senate. I would be happy to speak with interested folks personally, or as a group.

Thanks,

Jeff

Jeff Schaeffer  
Water Center Director