

Student questions: SESE Leadership colloquium on “SESE Welcome and Community Conversation”

9/4/19

Will there be a consensus posted of the majority answers for the post-it note questions, and a plan on how to tackle the objectives? Hilairy Hartnett recently sent out a preliminary report on the results from the Community Conversation (see email sent by her to SESEALL on Sept. 27, 2019). We are working on collating all the data and plans for follow on actions.

Is there going to be some kind of survey as to what type of speakers/topics students want to see at colloquium to update the interests of the students? Please reach out to the colloquium committee; this year’s chair is Ariel Anbar.

What can we do to push one's performance to its limits to make SESE a better community? Through your commitment to high performance and engagement with the SESE community!

No one truly got into the definition of professional development. What would be the general term of professional development? Professional development in a broad umbrella term that reflects any activities that help an individual to grow professionally – the key is optimizing how we target activities for individuals or groups of individuals. We will be seeking to do that.

What resources are available for graduate students to give feedback to the department? Email to Mini Wadhwa (Director) or others on our SESE Leadership team (Ramon Arrowsmith, Hilairy Hartnett, Chris Groppi, Patrick Young), or speak to the Grad Program Coordinator. Please also feel free to sign up for Mini’s Friday office hours (8-10 AM) to meet and talk in person – Cami Skiba sends weekly announcements about this.

How could we as graduate students be more involved in the SESE community outside of research and classes? Join the graduate council, volunteer for the colloquium committee, participate in outreach events, make helpful suggestions!

The fields studied in SESE are typically male-dominated, is there an organization for women in the department? Yes, there is a Women in Science group (<https://sese.asu.edu/student-life/women-in-science-program>) and ASU is starting a chapter of the Association of Women Geoscientists (AWG).

Is there a list somewhere of mental health and time management resources that are available to us? If not, I think info sessions about the topic could be helpful. Information on wellness resources is available at: <https://wellness.asu.edu/explore-wellness/mind/intellectual-wellness/time-management>

What is the best way for undergraduates to participate in GSA? This year’s GSA meeting is now done, but if you want to be involved in future meetings, please talk to Steve Semken!

During the talk, you had us submit one or two words indicating what things we thought would improve our experience in SESE. If we ever wanted to make more in-depth suggestions for improvements to SESE, what would be the appropriate channel for that? **Email to Mini Wadhwa (Director) or others on our SESE Leadership team (Ramon Arrowsmith, Hilairy Hartnett, Chris Groppi, Patrick Young) is always appreciated! Please also feel free to sign up for Mini's Friday office hours (8-10 AM) to meet and talk in person – Cami Skiba sends weekly announcements about this.**

One of the things you had us poll on was possible outreach programs. What programs is SESE currently involved in for community outreach?

<https://sese.asu.edu/public-engagement>

Can we please at least update the software on the computers in PSH? I teach a lab class, and students often have trouble completing exercises due to out-of-date software and computers. **We are in the midst of doing a major refresh of the computers in PSH. As for software, we can look into this further - more specific information about which software would help. The best person to contact regarding this matter is Ramon Arrowsmith (Deputy Director).**

A lot of SESE events sound incredible, but they're scheduled during normal class time. Is there a way to schedule some of the events at a time that accommodates more students? **There are many, many events in the evenings which are outside of usual class times. If by events you mean seminars and research group meetings, scheduling is always a problem given the number of such events and number of classes. Find out if the event you are interested in has a regular time and maybe you can adjust your class schedule in future semesters.**

How can we suggest new classes for future years? Although not related to my major, a class about exoplanets or geology of the solar system would be cool. **Please email Chris Groppi or Hilairy Hartnett with suggestions.**

How can we, as students, contribute ideas to improve the sese program? This session helped, but I think more sessions would help. **We hope to continue these conversations!**

How could I go about planning an official field trip with faculty/staff/students? **Start by contacting the faculty advisor for the trip and Ramon Arrowsmith (Deputy Director).**

Who should I speak to about requesting/inviting a certain speaker to come to ASU and give a talk? **Contact the colloquium committee – this year's chair is Prof. Ariel Anbar.**

With inclusivity being one of the main points talked about today, how does SESE plan on having diversity among the faculty and staff. It would be nice to see someone that looks like me as a teacher or TA. **We have been putting into place hiring practices for our faculty and staff that have been demonstrated to increase diversity. We are also working to provide support and programming that ensures that these diverse faculty and staff feel included once they are here. An example is the re-structuring of our colloquium to include speakers on topics related to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.**

Since having two people run the inclusivity department of SESE would you say the outreach and diversity of SESE has increased, decreased or remain the same? **It has only been two years (since 2017), but we believe we are on a positive trajectory with regard to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in our SESE community – we hope to accelerate this trajectory with additional programming in the near future that promotes DEI.**

Could we have more community events with free food to encourage graduate and faculty communication? **We do try to provide refreshments and food before our weekly colloquium, but we will try to do more of this for other events (for example, like having pizza after our community conversations that we hope to have on a more regular basis).**

Will SESE consider having graduate student colloquiums/seminars to encourage graduate student success? **Already in the works. Talk to Prof. Ariel Anbar for more information.**

The mention of everyone being mentors, does that undergrads will be mentors for new students or we the bottom of the foodchain? **We envision a system where everyone has the opportunity to mentor less senior SESE people, so senior undergraduates might be paired with new students.**

Does SESE charge for schools to take a tour of the facilities? **This question can be answered by Patrick Young, SESE Associate Director for Community Outreach.**

What are some ways that I could get more involved with SESE? Could I bring my friends and family to the events SESE holds? **Generally yes – email the event coordinator if you are unsure.**

We had discussed the ways to make SESE better. Are our feedback going to be posted anywhere and/or discussed about? **Hilairy Hartnett recently sent out a preliminary report on the results from the Community Conversation (see email sent by her to SESEALL on Sept. 27, 2019). We are working on collating all the data and plans for follow on actions.**

Mini, what motivated you to come to SESE and take on the role as the new director? **I am motivated by a desire to serve the people who surround me in this amazing school – the students, the staff, the researchers and faculty – to help them to achieve their goals. And I'm also motivated by the ASU charter; we seek to provide access to opportunities for excelling in Earth and space exploration for all those who want to participate!**

What advice would you give to someone who wanted to connect more with the faculty throughout SESE? **Email the faculty whose research excites you and ask to meet and talk with them (and, if their work interests you, ask how you might get involved) - We love to hear from you!**

What mentorship programs are there for graduate students to be involved in as either mentors or mentees? **If you are a graduate student, and you are looking for a mentor beyond your advisor or are looking to serve as a mentor for other students, contact the Graduate Council (President this year is Edward Buie II) or Hilairy Hartnett (AD for Graduate Initiatives).**

I am part of a student organization here at Arizona State University called Helios Rocketry. Today one of the speakers stated that SESE was interested in including engineering in their effort to diversify. Helios is competing in the Base 11 Space Challenge. This is a competition for a student-run university team to design, create, and launch a liquid propelled rocket to 100 km (the Karman Line). We have been working on this project for over a year and plan to launch in December of 2020. The current altitude record for a student-lead team of this kind is 40,000 feet. Keep in mind we are planning on making it to 330,000 feet. We currently have 30 active members and 160 more have shown interest during this past Passport ASU. We have already received funding from KEEN and sponsorship from DEWESOFT, IMS Metals, and other companies in the Phoenix area. We are currently looking for a payload we could take on the ride to the Karman line. Would SESE possibly have an idea or be able to provide a payload our team might be able to utilize? If you have questions or other ideas about how Helios Rocketry and SESE could collaborate please let me know. **Great to hear about this exciting student organization! You may want to talk to Chris Groppi (Associate Director for Undergraduate Studies) about this.**

How does SESE plan on making sure the geology and astronomy departments both feel represented within SESE leadership and events? **We already have faculty representation from across the range of SESE disciplines on our leadership team (Director/Deputy Director/Associate Directors).**

I think a great way to publicize and contribute to fundraising for SESE would be branded swag. Shirts, mugs, stickers, etc. are all visible talking points for SESE when out in public. **We agree and we are looking into it.**

Is there any way that we students can more easily obtain SESE branded "swag" or gear? I would greatly like to use my apparel as a de facto SESE billboard for outreach purposes when I visit local schools? **We agree and we are looking into it.**

How can I get involved in the public outreach activities? <https://sese.asu.edu/public-engagement/community-outreach>

Can I help with the outreach to local high schools? <https://sese.asu.edu/public-engagement/community-outreach>

How does one get involved in ESE day? **Contact Patrick Young, Associate Director for Community Outreach.**

What software was used to create that live poll? **Poll-everywhere (pollev.com)**

When would the SESE Undergraduate Council be realistically available to apply for, if it is created? **If there is interest on the part of the undergrads, we hope they can start such a council this semester – we are available to help with this (Hilairy Hartnett and Chris Groppi are in contact with a few of the undergraduates who expressed an interest – please feel free to contact them about this as well).**

What is the name of the survey program used during your presentation? I would like to use it.
Poll-everywhere (pollev.com); it is free if you are using it for small groups.

Is today's lecture going to be every semester because it's really useful ?? Yes, we hope to continue these community conversations!

How can I find out if I have a mentor? If you are an undergraduate major, you have been notified by the SESE advising office. If you are a graduate student, and you are looking for a mentor beyond your advisor or are looking to serve as a mentor for other students, contact the Graduate Council (President this year is Edward Buie II) or Hilairy Hartnett (AD for Graduate Initiatives).