

December 11, 2025, Humboldt-ERFSA Executive Meeting

Present: Marshelle Thobaben, President & Cal Poly Humboldt University Senate Representative; Jeffry Borgeld, Membership Chair; Susan Dobie, Program Chair & Kumi Watanabe-Schock, Communications Chair, Steve Karp, Interim Vice President of University Advancement

President Report (Marshelle)

- Emailed thank you letter to President Spagna
- Dec. 9th Attended University Senate Meetings. Primarily curricular issues. I submitted a written report on ERFSA's activities,
- Tasha Howe approved for Emeritus Status at the Dec. 9th University Senate Meeting—her application had been submitted on an old form so not included with the earlier ES applicants.
- Dec. 7th emailed notice: Applications for Emeritus Status for Tenured Faculty, Lecturers, Staff and Administrators Are Due to the Senate Office by Feb. 1, 2026. Notified the Provost Office.
- Nov. 21st & update on Dec 3rd Emailed to the listserv: VP Advancement Search Com Humboldt-ERFSA Member set up Seeking Humboldt-ERFSA Nominations to Serve on the Cal Poly Humboldt Vice President for University Advancement Search Committee
- Dec. 9th Emailed announcement of Provost Capps accepted position of President of Cabrillo College,
- Dec. 11th Election results for VP Search Cal Poly Humboldt VP for University Advancement Search Committee Jeff reported that Rees Huges was elected. Results to be sent to the President's Office.

Discussion Items:

- Junior Faculty and Staff grants – Applications are due by Thursday March 26, 2026, at 3 p.m. PST. Date for our review—**Thurs: April 2nd Zoom meeting**
- Emeritus status reception in April at the Septentrio Winery—date—**week of April 19th?**
- Celebration of 1984 -2026 Humboldt-ERFSA 42 years: History with welcoming of President Richard A. Carvajal ?

Program Chair (Susan)

Debriefing: Amy Uyeki & Vicki Ozaki from HAPI (Humboldt Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity) provided an excellent program with the highest attendance this year. They also set up some banners highlighting Humboldt Obon Festival, Eureka Chinatown Project, and Japanese American Incarceration during World War II.

Spring Program

Feb 12, 2026

12:00 Oscar M. Vargas: Biological Sciences (2021 Grant Recipient)

Project: The evolutionary origin and conservation genetics of rare plants in California.

Portions of the tree of life, the evolutionary origin of rare plants and genetic diversity can be inferred from the use of next generation DNA sequencing. My research team examines this data for conservation purposes. Introduction by Susan Dobie

12:30 Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler: Biological Science (2020 Grant Recipient).

Project: Revealing biodiversity–ecosystem function relationships through microbial nitrogen

metabolism. Studying the relationship between Biodiversity–ecosystem function helps us understand how

the variety of life in a system affects how well that system works. However, we still have major gaps in knowledge, especially about how the movement of organisms between habitats affect ecosystem health. Our findings highlight how complex and dynamic microbial roles can be in shaping the natural world and proposes novel frameworks to manage and predict microbial function in natural and constructed systems.

March 12, 2026

Kyle Weis: Acting Captain of the research vessel, R/V North Wind, Woodley Island Marina

A visit from 12:00 to 1:00pm at CalPoly Humboldt's new research vessel, R/V North Wind, meeting at Dock A at the Woodley Island Marina in Eureka. We will remain at the dock, and Kyle Weis will be available to answer questions during your informal tour. There are many opportunities for lunch in Eureka, including the on-site Café Marina. Dock A is located at the south end of the marina.

Introduction by Jeffry Borgeld

April 9, 2026

Brandon L. Browne: Professor, Department of Geology,

Project: Probing the subvolcanic magma plumbing systems of continental and oceanic basaltic volcanoes, examples from Medicine Lake volcano and the Axial Seamount.

Results of new geological research on the magma systems that underly two very different basaltic volcanoes located in the Pacific Northwest, including Medicine Lake Volcano in the California Cascades and the Axial Seamount submarine volcano on the Juan de Fuca Ridge. New evidence from geochemical and geophysical observations is advancing our ability to monitor and forecast volcanic eruptions, driving volcanologists to reimagine classical models of subvolcanic magma systems from simple, long-lived, and melt-dominated systems to complex, ephemeral, and crystal-rich systems.

Introduction by Kumi Watanabe-Schock

May 14, 2026

Jose Marin Jarrin: Fisheries Biology (2020 Grant Recipient)

Project: Using genetic barcoding and otolith analysis to train a diverse workforce in Fisheries

Ecology. Genetic barcoding and otolith analysis allow ecologists to identify fisheries species, and estimate fish growth and survival rates. In our lab, we have been training students and local partners to use these techniques basic parameters for fisheries management and stewardship to study octopus in the Galapagos Islands, and smelt and surfperch in Northern California. Our work will allow students and local partners to use the techniques critical to small-scale fisheries in small underserved communities.

Introduction by Lou Ann Wieand

Membership Chair (Jeff)

Number of ERFSA members: 2 semesters=52

Confirmed Ship Tour: Kyle Weis, Captain of the R/V North Wind.

Treasurer Lou Ann

The Cal Poly Humboldt ERFSA Account TV012-HSU_ERFA_Fund: \$7,300.34

HAF & WRCF Account: \$68,512.50

Baywood updates: Bills paid for Sept (\$274), Oct (\$296), and Nov (\$295)

Communications Chair (Kumi)

Press releases & UNotices had gone out through the regular channels including the Northcoast Journal calendar.

Continued providing information to retiring and retired CPH staff re. ERFSA, membership, and Emeritus application

For more publicity, use HumboldtNOW and Redwood News about ERFSA in the Future. More collaboration with Alumni Association/Foundation on promoting ERFSA.

Date of Next Meeting: 2pm on January 22, 2026 via zoom