

Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting Minutes  
March 21, 2007

**Attending:** Dangl, K. Lohmann, Copenhaver, Grant, C. Jones, Gensel, Vision, Bloom, A. Jones, Wiley, K. Pfennig, D. Pfennig, Sockman, Lieb, Burch, Yeh, Ahmed, Matson, Kier, Willet, Kingsolver, Duronio, Peifer, Rogers, Mitchell, Bautch, Sekelsky, Reed, White, Servedio, Marzluff, Reice, Liljegren, Matthyssee, Conlon, Searles, Burmeister (faculty secretary)

**Also attending:** Luke Berchowitz (graduate student representative)

## **I. Announcements**

Al Baldwin was awarded a Kenan Professorship.

David Pfennig was awarded a Zachary Taylor Smith Term Professorship.

Reception for Mike Sears will be held on Monday 26 March at 2:00 pm in Coker 201.

The Biology Department is adding a link to our website that will help biology majors identify opportunities for studying abroad.

## **II. Update on graduate admissions – Ken Lohmann**

There were a total of 336 applications to the PhD program of which 183 are considered official since they paid the application fee. So far, the department has admitted 40 students total (12 in the EEOB style, 24 in the MCDB style, and 4 interdisciplinary).

Graduate school fellowships were offered to 5 applicants (1 5-year award and 4 1-year awards); there was a brief discussion about whether the department can change the 1-year merit awards to RA-ships from TA-ships.

## **III. Report of senior search committee**

The search committee consists of Dangl (chair), Burch, Bloom, Grant, Lieb, Salmon, and Xiong from PMBB. Dangl gave a summary of the search committee findings. From about 40 applications, the committee narrowed the list to 7 from which 4 were invited for an interview. The committee considered 2 of the 4 to be highly competitive. Burch and Bloom highlighted the strengths of the 2 candidates and noted that no weaknesses were identified. A third candidate was added to the search committee's list of competitive candidates after a general discussion of the faculty. The faculty discussion focused on the scientific merits of the candidates and their potential for leadership within the department. Matson noted the traits that the department should consider in the candidates, including scientific excellence, research trajectory, international reputation, and fit with the mission of PMBB.

The faculty will vote on the candidates by secret ballot by 4:00 pm Friday 23 March. Ballots must include the rank of the voting faculty member. The results of the vote will be discussed at a subsequent faculty meeting to be scheduled.

## **IV. Other business**

None.