

Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2007

Attending: Dangl, Sekelsky, Duronio, Grant, Sockman, A. Jones, Reed, Peifer, Stafford, D. Pfennig, Conlon, Searles, Lieb, Peet, Vision, Kingsolver, Matson, Gensel, Ahmed, Matthysee, Matson Yeh, Bloom, Pukkila, Rogers, Wiley, Mitchell, Liljegren, Willett, Marzluff, K. Lohmann, Servedio, K. Pfennig, Kieber, Kier, Burmeister (faculty secretary)

I. Update on senior search

The department-wide vote reflected enthusiasm for two of the three candidates for the senior search. Duronio made a motion to offer the position to Matera and, if we are unsuccessful in recruiting him, to move quickly to offer a position to Shippen; Dangl seconded the motion; the motion passed with 24 votes in favor and eight abstentions.

II. Report of junior search committee

The search committee consisted of Sekelsky (co-chair), Bloom (co-chair), Reed, Stafford, Searles, and Burmeister. Sekelsky summarized the search committee's findings. Of approximately 170 applications, about 24 were chosen by the search committee for review by the full faculty. From these, the search committee chose to interview 10 candidates by video conference call and subsequently invited 5 for an on-campus interview.

The committee judged 4 of the 5 candidates to be highly competitive. The strengths and weaknesses of each of the 4 competitive candidates were reviewed by members of the search committee. Discussion focused on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate and on the new perspectives they might bring to the department.

Matson reminded the faculty that the appointment under consideration will be 100% in the biology department. In addition, Matson noted that it is important to consider whether the candidate will strengthen the department and whether the department will provide an environment in which the candidate can succeed.

The faculty will vote on the candidates by secret ballot by 4:00 pm Thursday 29 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.