

Department of Biology
Faculty Meeting
October 19, 2005

Minutes

In attendance:

Faculty:

Sockman, Pukkila, Copenhaver, Lieb, Yeh, Bloom, Matson, K. Lohmann, D. Pfennig, Searles, Duronio, Peifer, Gensel, Sekelsky, Hogan, DeSaix, Goldstein, Burmeister, Kier, Reice, Liljegren, C. Jones, Rogers, Vision, A. Jones, Reed, Burch, Kingsolver, Mitchell

Student representative:

Emily Fisher

I. Announcements

Bob Goldstein is giving his Hettelman lecture on Nov 30th in the George Watts Hill Alumni Center.

Ann Matthyse (in absentia) reminds instructors in core courses that have 2 finals to provide copies to Denise Burgner of 2 A exams, 2 B exams, 2 C exams and 2 D/F exams along with the answer key. Please remove the names from each exam. These will be used as part of our assessment of the core courses.

The due date for proposals for Hamilton Family fellowships is Nov. 2. The fellowship provides a semester-long leave to re-tool a course to include more technology or new teaching strategies. The semester leave means not teaching that semester. If interested, send Steve Matson an e-mail and he will provide application information.

Building Renovation Activity: Last week there was a final coordination meeting for Coker 201, which is ahead of schedule. We are currently waiting for the podium, which is due to be shipped on November 14. We should be back in Coker 201 on 1 January.

Old Wilson Bids were opened today, and nobody knows what happened yet. We had 3 bids. Construction costs have risen considerably. Demolition and abatement are being completed. Wilson 128 will probably be offline beginning January and for 2 semesters. The entire Wilson renovation should be finished in January 2007.

New Genomics Building in Bell Tower Lot: Cost estimate was more than Dean wanted, so the committee reconvened to try to reduce the budget. Current notion is to construct building and to shell space until new faculty fill it. Idea is to get state legislature to fund project.

Summer School (Seth Reice): Talk to Seth if you want to teach 63, 63L, 73, 73L, 124 or other classes this summer.

Todd Vision update on Admissions Pro software and using it on a Mac: If you have a G4 or G5 Mac, you can load virtual PC software (available free from IT and bundled with Microsoft Office) on your Mac and run Admissions Pro that way.

II. Website Committee – Jeff Sekelsky

Updates have been made to the website to make graduate recruitment better. The website committee has come up with a plan for these changes. Send constructive criticism by e-mail to Jeff Sekelsky. The committee decided on 5 links on the front page of the home page: (1) graduate programs (includes research areas and is tailored for graduate student recruitment); (2) research areas (for visitors who want to quickly look at what is going on in this department); (3) directories and resources; (4) undergraduate program; (5) news, events, and seminars. Alan Jones suggested having a news banner on the front page highlighting faculty accomplishments, awards, news. To advertise the department to prospective graduate applicants, Greg Copenhagen is getting a list of GRE test-takers to whom we will send an e-mail, Steve Rogers is preparing a letter faculty can broadcast to colleagues, and Pat Pukkila requested a list of former post-docs in the department who have faculty positions.

III. Update on searches for 2 positions (junior position and rank-open position in genetic/cell model organisms)– Kerry Bloom

An advertisement will appear between 23 October and 3 November. Letters to invite prospective applicants have been posted. We are planning for the candidates to interview in February, and the seminar committee has blocked off that time period. As they are received, we will be able to view applications on a website. Search committee: Kerry Bloom (chair), Terry van Dyke, Sekelsky, Goldstein, Rogers, Pukkila.

IV. Other business: None