

Department of Biology
Faculty meeting minutes
April 20, 2005

In attendance:

Ahmed, Bautch, Bloom, Burch, Copenhaver, Dangl, Duronio, Goldstein, Grant, Hogan, A. Jones, C. Jones, Kieber, Kier, Kingsolver, Lieb, Liljegren, Marzluff, Matson, Mitchell, Peet, Peifer, K. Pfennig, Pringle, Pukkila, Reed, Reice, Rogers, Searles, Sekelsky, Servedio, Sockman, Willett, Yeh

Student representatives: Sawyer, Vasquez

Announcements (Matson):

1. Sekelsky and Goldstein promoted to Associate Professor
2. Kieber promoted to Full Professor
3. Annual report due May 2
4. If requested, please send CV to David Leisegang. Some are required as part of certification process.

Strategic plan report (Dangl):

1. Strategic planning committee commission in response to external evaluation and also because new Dean may wish to see future plans.
2. Meant to be guide, not prescriptive, for next 5 years.
3. Does not take into account departures or retirements.
4. Report provides descriptive data of current department make-up including areas of collaboration.
5. The committee identified broad thematic areas for hiring that builds on existing strengths, expands edges of EEOB and MCDB in innovative directions, and creates bridges between the two groups.
6. Report includes draft job ads and type specimens or search images of example researchers.
7. Discussion of report pertained to implementation of plan, the desire to search as broadly as possible, and the desire to hire in revolutionary areas.
8. Matson moved to entertain a motion to accept the report. Copenhaver moved to do so; Kier seconded the motion. The report was accepted unanimously.

Graduate student recruitment (Sekelsky):

1. Although a good number of applicants this year, recruitment was not very successful.
2. In MCDB, 18 offers made and only 3 (at time of meeting) had accepted. EEOB had only 2 acceptances.
3. Recruits lost to top programs. Genetics had similar issues.
4. Suggestions for improvement included increased faculty involvement throughout process.
5. Admissions committee will meet to discuss improvements to the recruitment process.

Policy for voting on promotion/tenure decisions (Matson):

1. The new policy will be posted in secure site on departmental web site.
2. Changes proposed:
 - a. All tenured faculty will vote on fixed term appointments.
 - b. All tenured faculty will vote on promotion from assistant to associate professor.
All tenured faculty will also serve on promotion committees to review credentials.
3. As in past, only full professors will vote on promotion from associate to full professor.
4. Discussion focused on what is reported to college, when the policy becomes effective, and questions regarding votes on initial hires.
5. Peet put forward motion to approve changes and suggested coming back to issues of initial hires; Dangle seconded; the changes were approved unanimously.

Other business (Matson):

1. Ernie Patterson is posting secure documents to website; annual report will also be posted.
2. Genetics faculty meetings are upcoming and encouraged faculty to attend.
3. Ty Hedrick has accepted offer and will arrive summer 2007.