

Department of Biology  
Faculty Meeting  
November 8, 2006

**Minutes**

*In attendance:*

Faculty: Ahmed, Bloom, Burch, Burmeister, Copenhagen, DeSaix, Duronio, Gensel, Harris, A. Jones, C. Jones, Kier, Kingsolver, Marzluff, Matthyse, Matson, Mitchell, Peet, Peifer, Pukkila, Reice, Sekelsky, Servedio, Sockman, Stafford, Vision, Wiley, Yeh

Students: Mindy Roberts

I. Announcements

1. The Certificate of Occupancy for the newly renovated Old Wilson Hall has been delayed and the building will not be available until next semester. The dedication party will still be held on December 7th.
2. Mary Lou Jones will be retiring from the department on December 31st.
3. Steve Matson announced an upcoming initiative to fast-track science teachers for North Carolina. As a result, the department will likely have fixed-term faculty members to develop and teach courses on biology education.
4. Steve Matson announced that the graduate school would almost certainly implement a maternity leave program for graduate students and that the policies regarding leave periods are under development.
5. Laura Miller from the Math Department has asked Biology faculty members to announce a special section of Biocalculus (MA231 & 232) during their lectures to promote enrollment for these courses.
6. Steve addressed the situation with F&A costs and said that the university is slowly moving towards a satisfactory solution. In the meantime, Steve stated that he will forward the required forms for computer and office supplies purchases via email. He also suggested that computer equipment should be specifically budgeted in grant proposals.
7. Steve announced that Bruce Carney has suspended the search for the new Chair of Biology pending a resolution of the ongoing search for the Dean position. Discussions regarding the new Chair of Biology will begin again in January or February.
8. Bill Kier is serving on the committee for development of a School for the Environment and has asked for input from faculty members.

II. Graduate Admissions

Mark Peifer announced the status of the upcoming student recruitment efforts. The first recruiting weekend has been scheduled for February 15th to the 18th and the second weekend for March 16th to the 18th. Mark also recommended that faculty members forward the provided recruitment letter to colleagues at other schools. As last year, we will continue to use the GRE reporting services as a way to contact potential student candidates. Greg Copenhaver offered to poll the faculty to determine the number of available slots for first year students.

### III. Faculty Search

The advertisements for the junior and senior searches have been written and are scheduled for a November release.

### IV. Computer Committee

Todd Vision discussed upcoming implementation of a system to back up computers to the departmental servers and stated that specific information will be forthcoming. In addition, the department will dedicate server space for students and postocs. Todd also discussed the need to determine the most economical way for labs to buy additional storage space on the server, perhaps via annual buy-ins.

V. Discussion of combined graduate recruitment through an umbrella program with the life sciences department in the medical school. Steve Matson solicited feedback on this program and its possible implementation. Biology has not made any formal decision about participation in this program.

### VI. Adjournment of meeting.

Submitted by Steve Rogers