

**Department of Biology  
Faculty Meeting  
January 17, 2007 3:30 PM- 5:00 PM**

**Faculty Attending:**

Ahmed, Bautch, Bloom, Burch, Burmeister, Copenhaver, Dangl, DeSaix, Duronio, Grant, Gensel, Goldstein, Hogan, Jones C, Kier, Kieber, Kingsolver, Lieb, Lohmann, Matson, Matthyse, Mitchell, Peet, Peifer, Pukkila, Reed, Reice, Rogers, Salmon, Sekelsky, Servedio, Sockman, Stafford, Vision, Wiley, Willet, Yeh.

**I. Announcements**

- There will be a seminar on Jan 29 at 4 PM in the Stone Center. "Transforming the culture of academic science". Steve encouraged attendance.
- Haven Wiley was awarded a Competitive Research and Study Leave.
- NRC postdoc information- please send it in now- deadline is Friday.
- You will be receiving an NRC faculty survey. It will take about 10 minutes to fill out. Please do so. You will receive it by email.
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Career awards for postdocs. \$500,000. A portion can be carried to permanent position. Please consider applying for this award in the future.
- Friday Wednesday at 2pm Steve Matson will give his Dean presentation- (Bob Duronio)
- Graduate admissions . Recruitment weekend is Feb 15. (Lohmann)
- **Nomination of Thomas Kunkel for Adjunct Professor** (Stafford)
  - Darryl Stafford proposed that the department appoint Thomas Kunkel as adjunct professor. Darryl pointed out that Dr. Kunkel is a very thorough and accomplished individual. A CV was distributed.
  - There are no responsibilities, obligations, or direct benefit for the department associated with such an appointment.
  - An adjunct could serve on thesis committees. Mike Resnik, for example, is also an adjunct. These appointments enhance interactions with NIEHS.
  - Steve voiced an opinion in favor of an appointment. Duration of this appointment : until June 30, 2008.
  - There was concern raised by a number of faculty that we are approving an appointment of someone that we have never met. It was suggested that Dr. Kunkel be invited to give a seminar prior to a vote.
  - A vote was held, and approved by voice. Therefore, the number of abstentions is unknown. There were none opposed.
  - In the future, it was suggested that candidates be asked to give a departmental seminar.

**II. GSB update (Joe Kieber)**

- Joe outlined the progress on the building. Please contact Joe Kieber for details.
- Parking deck will now be built simultaneously.
- There were many questions, most of which were unable to be answered at this time
  - Who controls the space?
  - Will the informatics space be for existing or new faculty?
- Parking: it is all going away. But it will be back in 3 years.
  - Reassignments may be to the Jackson Circle Deck, maybe Cobb deck.
  - It was unclear if there would be any motorcycle slots, although there are others nearby.
  - There will be bus service to Motor pool.

- There will be motor vehicle access to the buildings (for drop-offs, for example).
- An idea was put forth for renovating New Wilson once new building is completed. Steve indicated that this idea has already been put forward to the Dean's Office and facilities. He intends to continue to push this plan for renovating Wilson Hall.

### **III. Faculty Search Updates**

- **Assistant Professor Search (Sekelsky)**
  - 140 candidates.
  - Short list is 20.
  - This will be reduced to 10 candidates on Thursday.
  - These 10 will be interviewed by video conference (133 Wilson.)
  - A smaller group will be chosen for live interviews.
- **Senior Search (Dangl)**
  - Sent out 200 letters
  - 30 applicants.
  - Whittled down to 7. The committee reduced this number to four on Wednesday.
  - Applications are available through Shelia King.
- **Affirmative action: (Pat Gensel)**
  - Reviewing applications: Beware subconscious bias. Brochures were passed out.
  - Key tip: don't be in a hurry. Spend the time to do the job thoroughly. During interviews, think about what you need to know beforehand. Some questions are illegal to ask- Pat will make a handout.
- **2 new lecturer searches**
  - One to replace Ken Bynum. Will be coordinated between Biology and educational professionals.

### **IV. Personnel matters**

- Charles Mitchell moved to make James Umbanhowar Research Assistant professor.
- Term would be through June 2008. No assignment of space. Would be in a position to write grants.
- In Charles's lab. Currently affiliated with the Ecology Curriculum.
- Works on Species interactions. Webs or networks of interaction. Chiefly a theoretician and computational biologist.
- A move and a second was made.
- A vote was held, and approved by voice. Therefore, the number of abstentions is unknown. There were none opposed.

### **V. Seminar Location**

- Corbin Jones: Please consider renovated Wilson 107 for seminars in Fall 2007.
- Seating capacity: ~100, which is approximately the maximum that attend bio seminars.

### **VI. Other Issues**

- Todd Vision addressed why disk space is more expensive than you might find it at Best Buy.
- Another survey will be sent around to ask about who needs additional space.
- Todd will talk with Steve about the best strategy for purchasing and perhaps reselling additional space.

Jason Lieb, Secretary