

Department of Biology  
Faculty Meeting  
March 22, 2006

**Minutes**

*In attendance:*

Faculty: Ahmed, Bautch, Bloom, Burch, Burmeister, Copenhaver, Dangl, DeSaix, Duronio, Gensel, Grant, Harris, A. Jones, C. Jones, Kieber, Kier, Kingsolver, Liljegren, Marzluff, Matthysse, Matson, Mitchell, Peifer, D. Pfennig, Pukkila, Reed, Rogers, Searles, Servedio, Sockman, Vision, White, Wiley, Willett, Yeh

I. Announcements

Interim dean for the College has been appointed: Steve Matson announced that Madeline Levine will be appointed as the interim dean for the College of Arts & Sciences effective July 1, 2006. A committee is being convened to conduct a search for a long-term replacement on a national scale.

University policies regarding "drop dates" are likely to be changed: Steve Matson announced that the university is likely to adopt a new policy regarding the window in which students are able to withdraw from classes without a grade. The current drop date is at 6 weeks from the start of the semester, but will likely be changed to 8 weeks. This announcement was followed by a discussion about how this change of policy may impact undergraduate Biology courses.

Graduate recruitment: Sarah Liljegren provided an update on graduate student recruitment efforts from the MCDB sub-committee. Currently 6 students have accepted, 4 declined and Sarah distributed the contact information for students from which we have not heard.

II. Presentation by Kerry Bloom on the status of the genetics/molecular biology faculty candidate search.

Kerry began by acknowledging the other members of the search committee (Pukkila, Goldstein, Sekelsky, Rogers, van Dyke), the staff (Kenyetta Walker, Dave Leisegang, Ann Clark), and the first year students (Nathan, Mindy, Kim, and Ben) for their participation in the journal club reviewing the candidates' publications. From a total pool of ~300 applicants, the committee generated a short list of 35. From this list, they invited the following for interviews:

Senior candidates: Susan Strome, Bill Saxton, Greg Matera, Jeff Palmer, Mimi Zolan  
Jr./Sr.: Marty Cohn  
Jr.: Melissa Rolls, Alla Grishok, Hong-Guo Yu, Aimee Dudley, and Craig Michelli

Kerry also announced that Zolan and Palmer had recently withdrawn their applications from consideration for this search. He then set out the guiding principles used by the search committee during these deliberations as: camaraderie, fit with the department, quality of science, leadership, career trajectory, gender, and strategic plan. Kerry then reviewed each of the candidates for the senior position, providing a brief summary of their research interests, the extent of their publication records, excerpts from the Biology faculty's assessments, and excerpts from the letters of recommendation solicited by each candidate. Based on each of these criteria and on the level of enthusiasm for Strome and Saxton, the recommendation of the search committee was to offer senior positions to both of them and to explore the possibility of a spousal hire for Bill Saxton. The other recommendations by the committee were to discuss other alternative courses of action. These were to 1. Consider Cohn as a candidate for the remaining junior position. 2. Support the possibility that Matera be considered as a faculty candidate through one of the medical school departments.

The motion was made that senior position be offered to Strome and to urge the university to offer another senior-level position to Saxton. The motion was passed: 34 in favor, 2 abstentions.

II. Peter White made the proposal that the Biology faculty consider Alan Weakley as an adjunct faculty to Biology in light of his involvement in departmental teaching and his high level of expertise. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Steve Matson made the proposal that Kelly Hogan be re-appointed for another 2 year term as a lecturer in the Biology Department due to her strong teaching record during her time here and the initiative she has shown outside of the classroom in educating undergraduates. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment of regular meeting.

Submitted by Steve Rogers