

Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2007

**Agenda**

**Attending:** Harris, DeSaix, Mitchell, Reice, Duronio, Sockman, Dangl, Wiley, K. Lohmann, C. Jones, Vision, Lieb, Ahmed, Kieber, Yeh, Matthysse, Reed, Copenhaver, Kingsolver, K. Pfennig, D. Pfennig, Burch, Kier, Servedio, Willett, Rogers, Sekelsky, Pukkila, Salmon, Gensel, Searles, Burmeister (faculty secretary)

Also attending: Luke Berchowitz (student representative)

**I. Announcements**

- New contract-based honors program for upper division courses.
- Two faculty candidates visiting next week (Shou and Matera).
- Graduation recognition ceremony is Saturday May 12 at 2 pm.
- Faculty-wide lunch social is next Wednesday at noon.
- Overview of programs to promote minorities in research.
- Steve Matson has decided to continue as chair for a second 5 year term.

**II. Report from the Graduate Admissions committee – Ken Lohmann**

This year, there were a total of about 190 completed applications. The department admitted 42 and 12 have accepted (EEOB accepted 12 and 3 have accepted; MCDB accepted 27 and 9 have accepted; 4 students were accepted as interdisciplinary students and none accepted).

Of the graduate school fellowships, none were accepted this year. There was some discussion on how to make these fellowships a more effective recruiting tool, such as bundling 3 1-year fellowships into a single 3-year fellowship.

**III. Website update – Jeff Sekelsky**

The website committee has designed and launched a new website for the department. Sekelsky gave an overview of the new features and organization. There is a plan to develop an intra-departmental website for documents, announcements, and discussions within the department.

**IV. Position request for next year – Steve Matson**

The department will renew last years request for an ecologist and will ask for a second position in evolutionary biology. Both would be assistant professor positions.

The department is also nominating a senior evolutionary biologist for a Bowles Professorship. There is interest in finding a high-profile female scientist to fill a joint-position in Biology and Women's studies as a Bowles Professor. Any thought on suitable candidates should be forwarded to Matson.

**V. Personnel matter**

Frank Conlon was recently promoted to Associate Professor in Genetics. There was a motion to promote Conlon to Adjunct Associate Professor in Biology with 28 in favor and 1 abstention.

**VI. Additional business**

none.