

Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2007

Present:

Shawn Ahmed, Kerry Bloom, John Bruno, Christina Burch, Sabrina Burmeister, Greg Copenhaver, Jeff Dangl, Jean DeSaix, Robert Duronio, Patricia Gensel, Sarah Grant, Albert Harris, Tyson Hedrick, Alan Jones, Corbin Jones, Joe Kieber, Bill Kier, Joel Kingsolver, Jason Lieb, Sarah Liljegren, Ken Lohmann, Greg Matera, Steve Matson, Ann Matthyse, Charles Mitchell, Robert Peet, Mark Peifer, David Pfennig, Karin Pfennig, Pat Pukkila, Jason Reed, Seth Reice, Steve Rogers, Maria Servedio, Kevin Slep, Keith Sockman, Todd Vision, Peter White, Haven Wiley, Chris Willett, Jennifer Coble

Not Present:

Albert Baldwin, Victoria Bautch, Ken Bynum, Frank Conlon, Stephen Crews, Bob Goldstein, Kelly Hogan, Cathy Lohmann, William Marzluff, Charles Peterson, Ted Salmon, Lillie Searles, Jeff Sekelsky, Darrel Stafford, Elaine Yeh

I – Announcements

- Congratulations to Karin Pfennig and Corbin Jones on their recent publications in Science and Nature
- Research and Study Leave applications are due on the 1st of December
- Jefferson Science Fellow nominations/applications are due January 15th; please contact Steve if you're interested in applying or would like more information. The Jefferson Science Fellowship is a 1 year award to work with the US Department of State on-site in Washington, DC providing expertise on science-related issues.
- You should have received an email from EHS asking you to fill out the US Department of Homeland Security chemical inventory. Please do this! The survey does include many common lab chemicals but does not take long to fill out.
- Seminar on Teaching Biology: Beginning this spring, the department will provide a (mandatory) course in teaching to new faculty. The course will meet once a week for 2 hours over the course of 8 weeks. There are currently 4 additional slots available should any other faculty wish to take part. This course will be offered each year.
- The departmental Intranet now has a page on the Genome Sciences Building; the page currently contains building plans and an FAQ, courtesy Joe Kieber
- The departmental holiday party will be held around noon on Dec. 12

II – Melinda Manning – Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Melinda presented a series of PowerPoint slides on Students in Crisis. The slides have been emailed to the faculty, are also posted in the New Faculty wiki under teaching, and are summarized below:

- **What can you do if you encounter / detect / suspect a crisis**
 - Suggest that the student contact Counseling and Wellness Services at 966-3658
 - Visit Counseling and Wellness Services walk-in clinic, in the Student Health Building, daytime hours

- After hours: call health services at 966-2281
- If the student does not wish to contact Counseling & Wellness Services, suggest the Office of the Dean of Students at 966-4042
- After hours access to the Dean of Students by calling the campus police at 966-8100 and asking for the Dean on Call
- **What to do if you are in immediate fear, either for the student or yourself**
 - Call 911
 - Call CWS at 966-3658
 - Call the Dean of Students 966-4042
 - Trust your instincts and don't be alone with the student
- **Controlling disruptive classroom behavior**
 - UNC honor code prohibits disruptive behavior
 - Set expectations for acceptable behavior in the course syllabus
 - For minor disruptions address the entire class
 - For more serious disruptions seek a private meeting, possibly with Dean of Students staff present
 - Ask the student to leave class
- **Do Not**
 - Touch students
 - Lose your cool
 - Violate confidentiality
 - Single out students in front of the group
 - Give accommodations without going through disability services

III – New Ad-hoc committees

Quantitative Biology

Jeff Dangl (chair), Corbin Jones, Sabrina Burmeister, Maria Servedio, Kerry Bloom, Todd Vision, Jason Lieb, Elaine Yeh. This committee will produce a vision statement for quantitative biology at UNC, a hiring plan to fulfill this vision, an undergraduate curriculum or track, and a comparison between these plans and the programs at other institutions nationwide.

Committee to review and revise tenure/promotion regulations

Greg Copenhaver (chair), Ted Salmon, Christina Burch, Jeff Sekelsky. This committee will review the current tenure regulations, last updated in 1995, and propose changes. It is important to realize that changes to tenure criteria flow up the hierarchy; we need to propose any needed changes.

IV – Graduate student recruiting – Ken Lohmann and Mark Peifer

Ken Lohmann – The process will be different this year due to the advent of the BBSP, although the department will maintain the “Biology portal” i.e. admission straight to the department. At this time the assumption is that MCDB type students will be admitted through the BBSP while the majority of EEOB students will come in via the Biology portal. Some changes have been made to the BBSP website since the last departmental meeting, primarily the addition of Ecology and Animal Behavior as research areas, this

should allow the BBSP website to provide advertising for all faculty, EEOB as well as MCDB. The addition of the BBSP and subtraction of MCDB type students from the Biology portal pool dramatically changes the nature of departmental level recruitment events. At this time there are no firm plans for an EEOB recruitment weekend, though should enough students apply such an event will be considered. EEOB faculty may wish to keep a weekend free in late February for such an eventuality.

Mark Peifer – The departmental recruiting website is unchanged except that the “How to apply” page directs MCDB type applicants to the BBSP. BBSP initial admissions decisions [whether or not to interview/recruit] will be made by 4 committees: 1) MCDB, 2) Pathogenesis, 3) Cell signaling & 4) Quantitative Biology. The department has faculty serving on both the MCDB and Quantitative committees - MCDB: Mark Peifer, Greg Copenhagen, Sabrina Burmeister, Corbin Jones & Quantitative: Todd Vision. However, Mark anticipates that all high quality students will pass the committee phase regardless of their declared research interests. The committees are not intended to equalize the number of applicants in each topic area. If you have any concerns about a particular applicant and wish to make sure they get through the committee step please contact one of the department members serving on a BBSP admissions committee.

The BBSP will sponsor 6 recruitment weekends, students will be invited to on particular dates based on their declared research interests:

1/31 – 2/2: Pathogenesis / Quantitative

2/7 – 2/9: MCDB

2/14 – 2/16: Cell Signaling / Quantitative

2/21 – 2/23: MCDB

2/28 – 3/1: Pathogenesis / Cell Signaling

3/6 – 3/8: MCDB

The department should attempt to dominate the field during the MCDB weekends!

V – State of the Department

To be discussed at next meeting

VI - Personnel issues (tenured faculty only)

No minutes kept in general file