

Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2008

Present:

Shawn Ahmed, John Bruno, Christina Burch, Sabrina Burmeister, Greg Copenhaver, Mara Duncan, Robert Duronio, Patricia Gensel, Tyson Hedrick, Corbin Jones, William Kier, Joel Kingsolver, Ken Lohmann, Steve Matson, Ann Matthysse, Charles Mitchell, Mark Peifer, David Pfennig, Karin Pfennig, Jason Reed, Seth Reice, Lillie Searles, Jeff Sekelsky, Kevin Slep, Keith Sockman, Christopher Willett, Elaine Yeh

Not Present:

Albert Baldwin, Victoria Bautch, Kerry Bloom, Ken Bynum, Frank Conlon, Stephen Crews, Jeff Dangl, Jean DeSaix, Bob Goldstein, Sarah Grant, Albert Harris, Alan Jones, Joseph Kieber, Jason Lieb, Sarah Liljegren, Cathy Lohmann, William Marzluff, Greg Matera, Robert Peet, Charles Peterson, Patricia Pukkila, Steve Rogers, Ted Salmon, Maria Servedio, Darrel Stafford, Todd Vision, Haven Wiley, Peter White

Ecology Search – Faculty ranking results (Steve Matson)

- Buckley received the majority of the 1st rank votes with Hurlbert a close second.
- Johnson received no 1st rank votes.
- Conclusion: Buckley is the choice of the majority

Search Committee (Joel Kingsolver)

- Move to make an offer to Buckley, also consider Hurlbert if Buckley declines.
 - Buckley is stronger quantitatively and mathematically.
- Discuss potential for two offers: Buckley & Hurlbert
 - Enthusiasm high for both candidates, both make excellent compliments.

Open Discussion: Potential for two offers

Charles Mitchell: A lot of discussion was necessary to reach a consensus with the committee.
Elaine Yeh: Inquire about excitement for Buckley & Hurlbert versus the two candidates that withdrew.

Joel Kingsolver: People have a lot of excitement for both.

Mark Peifer: Many senior ecology people are not present to help make this important decision.

David Pfennig: These are two amazing people. Ecology is an area in the dept. that needs new hires and both are good candidates. This is a very good opportunity.

Joel Kingsolver: Bob Peet is a strong supporter of Hurlbert. Thus, senior ecology faculty are likely to agree with the plan.

Ken Lohmann: Will this complete ecology's needs for the next five years?

Seth Reice: As long as they fulfill distinct valuable needs for the dept. it is a good idea.

Pat Gensel: They will add strengths to the dept in growing areas of ecology.

Sabrina Burmeister: Both candidates have 2nd offers, we cannot delay the process.

Charles Mitchell: The search committee sorted through 174 candidates that would

complement the department – a broad net was cast and two strong candidates have been identified –both are worthy of being in the department.

Ken Lohmann: Who will the candidates interact with in the dept.?

Response: Hurlbert would interact with Reice, White, Peet and Jones. Both candidates will bridge the gap between community and population biology.

Karin Pfennig: Candidates bridge the fields of ecology, organismal and evolutionary biology

David Pfennig: This is the first ecology search in 12 years. This is a great opportunity to take care of this major area of biology.

Mark Peifer: New, young people are needed in the department to cover ecology. Senior people will be retiring.

Conclusion (Steve Matson)

Motion:

- Proceed with an offer to Buckley and arrange a second visit.
- Hurlbert will be 2nd in line.
- Steve Matson will talk to Bruce Carney about a second position, examine resources available and decide if a 2nd offer is feasible.

Vote: In Favor: all but one
Abstain: one

Steve Matson will call Buckley, make an offer and arrange a second visit.