

**Department of Biology, Faculty Meeting
September 8, 2010**

In attendance:

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|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ahmed, Shawn | Hurlbert, Allen | Pukkila, Pat |
| Buckley, Lauren | Johnson, Corey | Reed, Jason |
| Burch, Christina | Jones, Corbin | Rogers, Steve |
| Burmeister, Sabrina | Kieber, Joe | Searles, Lillie |
| Copenhaver, Greg | Kier, Bill | Sekelsky, Jeff |
| Dangl, Jeff | Kingsolver, Joel | Shemer, Gidi |
| DeSaix, Jean | Lieb, Jason | Slep, Kevin |
| Duncan, Mara | Lohmann, Cathy | Vision, Todd |
| Duronio, Bob | Lohmann, Ken | Wiley, Haven |
| Gensel, Pat | Matthysse, Ann | Willett, Chris |
| Goldstein, Bob | Mitchell, Charles | |
| Grant, Sarah | Peet, Robert | |
| Harris, Albert | Peifer, Mark | |
| Hogan, Kelly | Pfennig, David | |

I. Announcements and updates

- A. Congratulations to Ken Lohmann who was awarded the Charles P. Postelle Distinguished Professorship.
- B. All promotions recommended by the department have been approved: Goldstein, Lieb, and Sekelsky were promoted to full professors. C. Jones, Mitchell, K. Pfennig, Rogers, and Sockman were promoted to associate professors. Duncan, Hedrick and Slep were reappointed as assistant professors.
- C. Congratulations to Pat Pukkila who is the project director of a recently awarded \$1.3 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research for Future Scientists and Clinicians Program.
- D. Marie Fholer received the 2010 Award in Management from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- E. Hinar Polczer was awarded a 2010 IT award.
- F. Faculty are encouraged to recognize staff for exceptional service.
- G. On Sept 28, Mimi A.R. Koehl from UC Berkeley will deliver the Distinguished Seminar in Organismal Biology and Distinguished Women in Science seminar. All are invited to a Wednesday (12-2 PM in 215 Coker Hall) pizza lunch to discuss women in science issues. Her copepod imitation is not to be missed.
- H. OSR proposal deadlines: Thanks to Allen Hurlbert for raising the issue of the overly early OSR submission dates and to Mark Peifer for drafting diplomatic correspondences to OSR. OSR is attempting to address the problem. UNC has a CAYUSE grant submission system under development that should improve grant submission and allow later submission of science

components. The biology department is working toward strong pre-award support. Shelia Hunnicutt is making great progress already in assisting faculty with pre-award issues.

- I. Position authorization: Few faculty searches authorized this year. Authorized searches primarily reinstate failed searches. Kier arguing for Williamson Rule- if a department turns someone down for tenure or decides not to hire in search, department will not be punished for decision. Dean's office did not approve a search this year, but position created from declined tenure should not be lost. New genome building should promote aggressive hiring in upcoming years.
- J. BGSA graduate student issues: The BGSA is currently fairly inactive. As of recent meeting with Kier, no retreat planning was underway, no officers had been elected, and no student funding had been requested. Retreat planning is now underway. Oct 29th should be reserved for the retreat. Should faculty have more oversight? Copenhagen offered to meet annually with BGSA for mentoring. Biology department will supply some resources to BGSA. Need to create incentives for BGSA involvement was discussed.
- K. Enough space in mailroom for graduate students. Should mailboxes be moved from Coker hall? Doing so may limit the ability of students to turn in to assignments to TAs. Possible to have slot for depositing assignments. Concerns: Mailroom may be more crowded and would need to give keys to graduate students.
- L. Need to update graduate student photoboard. Susan Whitfield will coordinate. Additional research images are requested. Please send images to Susan.
- M. BBSP requests verification of participating faculty. Please indicate any desired status changes.
- N. Fholer announcements: Two weeks notice required for hiring temps. Temps need to be active on payroll before starting work. Work study students are an exception due to time constraints on hiring. Department now coordinates work study hiring. Postdocs must have signed dissertation completion committee report before hiring. Many students are not completing timecards; sponsors need to ensure completion and approve timecards.

Intent to post Denise Hargis' job Sept 13. Shemer, Kieber, Searles, Kier and Fholer on search committee. Cottie Pasternak will cover office and Pasternak, Fholer, and Shemer will coordinate undergraduate issues during transition.

Please respond to requests to confirm dependents on health care.

- II. Potential move of John Bruno to biology
 - A. Bruno is currently a Marine Sciences faculty member with a joint appointment in Biology. He feels greater overlap with Biology faculty and has an interest in moving his position entirely (including space and teaching) to biology. Marine Sciences chair is supportive and college willing to consider move. Salary line would be transferred to Biology. Issues: space and renovation money currently limited. His space needs have changed since he primarily conducts fieldwork now so we may be able to accommodate his needs. Marine sciences is a not a good home for his graduate students and he has already been involved in Biology recruitment. He has established interactions with several Biology faculty and potential for further interactions.

What would faculty need to evaluate John's appointment to biology? Support voiced for move. Most faculty are comfortable voting immediately. Kier will call a vote once approval received from Dean.

III. Graduate school update (Greg Copenhaver)

- A. The National Research Council 10 year report on Graduate Programs will be partially released on Sept 28. Dean Matson has arranged meetings for advanced viewing of the report and to help with the interpretation of the data. Faculty may receive calls from press. Please do not respond to press and instead refer all requests to graduate school. The report will be based on matrices rather than rankings.
- B. The graduate school is developing a plan for a professional science masters program, which will be similar to an MBA program. Plan is for a small number of students to take existing courses and pay substantial tuition. The program will be primarily course based but will include an internship and business school classes to prepare students for jobs in industry. Participating departments should receive financial benefit.

IV. New Business

None.