

Department of Biology
Faculty Meeting
January 18, 2005

Minutes

In attendance:

Faculty: Sockman, Matthyse, Burmeister, Burch, Goldstein, Matson, Vision, Kier, Wiley, Bautch, Mitchell, Kingsolver, Servidio, Lieb, Gensel, Duronio, Rogers, Sekelsky, Peifer, Reed, Hogan, Ahmed, Pukkila, K. Lohmann, Reice, Peete, Jones, and Copenhaver.
Students:??

I. Announcements

Recent Accomplishments by Department Members: Maria Servedio was appointed as an associate editor of the journal Evolution. Todd Vision was appointed as the new associate director of NESCent.

There is a shortage of classrooms for the 2006-2007 school year. Consequently, the University has instituted several new policies: First, the length of the standard class day will be extended to 6:15 PM beginning next Fall. Second, the departmental room blackouts that currently begin at 3 PM will be gin at 4 PM starting in the Fall. Thirdly, classes will to be scheduled in non-university rooms adjacent to campus.

Steve Matson announced a new effort to create a minor in scientific entrepreneurship under the auspices of the CEI (Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative) funded by the Kauffman Foundation. There are two entrepreneurship minor tracks already approved. Under this proposed curriculum, students would take two economics courses specified by the CEI minor and then be funneled into a workshop-level course in entrepreneurial science. This course would be team taught by a faculty member and an entrepreneur. Holden Thorpe is organizing the first workshop course and members of the department are encouraged to suggest participants who might be interested in the workshop component of instruction.

Course evaluation forms: The current evaluation forms will be redesigned. Steve Matson requested volunteers to participate in the creation of these new forms.

Graduate recruitment: Ken Lohmann gave an update on the graduate admissions status. The recruitment weekend is planned for February 23-26, 2006 and all faculty are asked to participate in the events and in the interviews as much as possible. Nominations for graduate fellowships will be made on January 26, 2006. For the duration of the recruitment period, the committee will conduct regular meetings at 10:30 AM on Thursdays in Coker 215. Also, Bob Peet gave a demonstration about to use the Admissions Pro software.

Search committee: Kerry Bloom discussed the status of the job search for faculty candidates in the area of genetics and molecular biology. In total, over 300 people applied for the positions. The job search committee (Goldstein, Sekelsky, Pukkila, Bloom, Rogers and Van Dyke) has selected finalists that have been invited for interviews beginning next month. Bill Saxton and Susan Strome have been invited to interview in February as potential "rank open" candidates. Also, Jeff Palmer and Mimi Zolan will be invited to visit later in the spring. The applicants for the Assistant Professor position that have been invited to interview are: Alla Grishok, Craig Micchelli, Melissa Rolls, Aimee Dudley, and Hong-Guo Yu. Kerry has asked for feedback from the faculty regarding these candidates.

II. Presentation by Doug Crawford-Brown from the Carolina Environmental Program about the School of the Environment.

Crawford-Brown delivered a presentation to introduce an effort on campus to establish a School of the Environment. Such a program would be multidisciplinary in nature and involve the efforts of many established departments on campus. He presented several potential organizational schemes for this school and several potential physical locations including renovation of existing structures and construction of new space. The purpose of this presentation was to make people aware of these efforts.

III. Adjournment of regular meeting.

Submitted by Steve Rogers