

Faculty Meeting Minutes  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007  
3:10pm, 2011 Natural Sciences

PRESENT: Catherine Badgley, Paul Berry, Chris Dick, William Fink, Deborah Goldberg, Mark Hunter, Alex Kondrashov, Jo Kurdziel, David Mindell, Knute Nadelhoffer, Barry OConnor, Diarmaid O’Foighil, Beverly Rathcke, Liz Tibbetts, Priscilla Tucker, John Vandermeer, Paul Webb, Earl Werner, Trisha Wittkopp.

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a). EEB’s Business Manager Susan Stark has left the department. Interviews are currently ongoing and an offer is expected to be made by the end of the week.
  
- b) Kate Collins, the assistant graduate coordinator, has left the department. A decision has been made to revamp the position making it full-time (rather than seasonal) with the focus on graduate student recruitment including efforts with underrepresented minorities. The new person will staff the graduate admissions committee and the diversity committee. The department is currently waiting for LSA approval to begin a search.
  
- c) The EEB business office has taken over conducting financial transactions and personnel paperwork for the Herbarium. A new half-time financial person, funded by the Herbarium and EEB, will be hired to conduct Herbarium business and to assist with research grant administration in EEB. This new position will be housed in EEB. The staff member will report to the Herbarium administrator as well as to the new EEB Business Manager.
  
- d) All department policies are on the web under the "eebadministration" link at the bottom left of the EEB homepage.

2. EEB POSITION REQUESTS

a) EEB currently has 32 faculty members and 23 (FTEs), but only 20.8 college-funded FTEs (CFFTEs). Actual FTEs may differ from CFFTEs for a number of reasons including "senior upgrades," "free" positions following college initiatives, fully-endowed positions, etc. Resource commitments or target position numbers for each unit are based on CFFTEs and are set during the approval process of a 5-year plan. Currently, EEB is under our resource commitment of 25 CFFTEs. Departments may request positions to be authorized using a "short form" when they are under target and the requested positions are part of the approved long-term plan. UMMZ is currently over target, while the Herbarium will be at their target when the open and authorized fungal position is included.

**Available positions (difference between current and “target” CFFTEs)**

	<u>Target</u>	<u>Sept 2007</u>
EEB	25	20.835 +.75 for fungal position=21.585
UMMZ	4	4.5
HERB	2	1.25+.75 for fungal position=2.0

b) LSA has authorized one search per department for AY 2007-08, but we can still request authorization of other positions. Currently, EEB has one open and authorized position, in Fungal Systematics and Evolution, joint with the Herbarium. This is an endowed professorship, approved at a senior level. The Executive Committee recommends that we request permission to post this position at all ranks and to search for the position this year.

The Executive Committee proposed the following possible additional position requests:

- i. Functional or organismal biology of lower vertebrates (1.0 FTE in EEB). This would fill at least part of a major gap in teaching--there is no one to teach animal physiology after this year and we will need a replacement in chordate anatomy. The focus on lower vertebrates would provide needed expertise in fishes, amphibians, or reptiles, and could provide curatorial expertise for these collections in the Museum of Zoology.
- ii. Evolutionary Ecology (1.0 FTE in EEB). This remains an important gap in research expertise and could also fill needed expertise as a third person to rotate into either Genetics or Ecology. After discussion, the Committee recommended that the area be re-phrased as "the interface of ecology and evolution."
- iii. Plant evolution and systematics (0.5 EEB and 0.5 Herbarium). This position would replace Mike Wynne. The Executive Committee felt that increasing the number of faculty in the Herbarium was critical but was concerned that the need to request an incremental 0.25 or 0.5 FTE for the Herbarium component of the position might not be successful in this very tight budget year. A smaller increment would be needed if the fungal position was filled at the junior level, so the Committee recommended that we postpone this position request until next year.

c) Barry OConnor motioned to approve the following:

EEB will request positions from LSA with the following priority:

- i. Modify the already-authorized fungal evolution position (0.5 Herbarium, 0.5 EEB) to include posting at all ranks
- ii. Request an organismal biologist who studies "lower vertebrates" (fishes, amphibians, or reptiles). (1.0 EEB)
- iii. Request a position at the interface of ecology and evolution (1.0 EEB).

Paul Berry seconded the motion.

The vote to approve was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.