

Evolution Learning Community  
Executive Council Meeting with Provost  
November 30, 2005  
8:30 – 9:15 a.m., Chancellor's office

In attendance: Kathleen Berkeley, Tricia Kelley; Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo

Representatives of Executive Council met with Chancellor DePaolo to apprise her of initial ELC plans and to request his support for the program. (Dale McCall was unable to attend due to schedule conflict after a previous appointment was postponed by Chancellor's office.)

Chancellor had previously been emailed the attached document. PK and KB briefly reviewed the development of the concept and the general plan for teaching, scholarship and public outreach.

Response by Chancellor DePaolo was as follows:

- ELC concept has her support
- Stressed importance of involving the campus beyond CAS
- Stressed importance of handling sensitive issues carefully so as to not alienate campus and community
- Suggested involving Wilmington's ministerial association when dealing with issues related to science and religion
- Has media connections who will be helpful with publicity; Chancellor should be contacted when public relations materials have been developed
- Willing to provide funding for expenses such as speaker support; Chancellor should be provided a budget once it is developed
- Presentation to Board of Trustees would be helpful; advised to work with Paul Hosier and Mark Lanier to set this up

## Evolution: A Campus-Wide Learning Community, 2006-09

Building on the success of the Brown vs. the Board of Education Learning Community, (Spring 04), Tom Schmid issued an open invitation to faculty and staff in Spring 05 to discuss the feasibility of organizing a much more elaborate learning community of interdisciplinary study and discussion of evolution. The timing for such an event seems propitious, with the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* and the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth a brief four years away. Although the teaching of evolution has once again become the object of pointed debate in American society (the intelligent design movement is the latest manifestation of this century-long conflict), this controversy forms but one aspect of the proposed campus-wide program about the broader themes and issues relating to Darwin and evolution.

Faculty and staff from throughout UNCW, including Philosophy & Religion, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, History, English, Political Science, Education, Library, English, Film Studies, Environmental Studies, Earth Sciences, Anthropology, Psychology, the Honors Scholars Program, CTE, CFL, University College, Public Service and Continuing Studies, and Campus Events responded with enthusiasm to Tom Schmid's call. Over the course of spring and summer 05, a core group of approximately 30 members of the UNCW community met to consider how best to organize such an ambitious undertaking. By July, a preliminary outline of events, programs, classes, and scholarly activities had taken shape, subcommittees were identified-- Curriculum, Educational Outreach, and Events/Programs--a three-person Executive Council— Kathleen Berkeley, Patricia Kelley, and Dale McCall—elected, and a website (<http://library.uncwil.edu/faculty/peterson/elc/>) created. The Executive Committee (the larger group) and the Executive Council agreed to a tentative timeline, which follows:

- 2005-07: PR with university administration and UNCW community to ensure popular support and wide-spread participation, planning events, identifying potential funding sources, grant-writing , and support for Darwin Scholars' projects (both teaching and research)
- 2007-08: developing educational packets for teachers, sponsoring a Summer Institute for teachers, developing linked courses on evolution , writ large, for UNCW's Living and Learning Community program, and support for Darwin Scholars' projects (both teaching and research)
- 2009 (the "Year of Darwin": Spring and Fall semesters): public events, speakers, programs, a scholarly symposium, and perhaps a trip (members of the UNCW community and the public) to the Galapagos and/or Patagonia.

Administrative Support might include, but is not limited to the following:

- Workload reassignment for faculty heavily invested in administrative and/or grant writing efforts
- Support for hosting speakers and for speakers' fees
- Support for publicity
- Support for designating existing resources (e.g.: The Cahill Awards, CTE curriculum grants) for scholarship and curriculum development