

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2005

Subject: evolution LC 150th anniversary Origin of Species initial meeting

Colleagues,

1. There seems to be strong interest in the concept. We are meeting again, **next Tuesday Feb 15 at 12-1 pm**, location yet to be determined. Please come if you are interested. Also discussed:

2. basic idea would be for a 2 or 3 part program,

(1) **UNCW curriculum:** linked courses and other planning for UNCW, in nat sciences, soc sciences, humanities, writing program, film/arts program; tie-ins with LC program, Honors courses, departmental experimental courses; drama (e.g. on Scopes Trial); documentary film making; involve CTE, Com of Scholars, Science Humanities Society programs; common reading *Origin of Species* for all freshman; graduate students involvement; create inventory of classes that are currently taught on 'evolution'/related studies; perhaps link LC, summer teaching initiatives to such a program

(2) **public events** series: which could include prominent speakers, though several expressed reservations about encouraging a public debate that would present views of 'scientific' creationists as 'equal'; perhaps different speakers on the relation of religion to science; on debates within evolutionary theory; on relation to human history and society; on what constitutes "science"; video series; noted that Leadership Center could play role in bringing speakers on campus.

(3) **public schools outreach:** this might expand the size and scope of the program considerably. Need to involve Science Math and Education Center if possible. If can link to course testing, can interest schools; this will depend on textbook choices made this year; possibly there could be \$ for a summer program like summer ventures, either to draw in local students or involving e.g. 2 wk residence. One possible funding source = NSF Ed grants (50-100,000 range).

3. what do we want for outcome? (1) semester or year long uncw curricular and educational events *focus on evolution*, all of its ramifications for science, education, human society, which would engage faculty in ongoing dialogue that might have longer-term benefits and would engage undergraduate and graduate students in educational/intellectual issues. (2) *possible public-school connection* that might advance scientific education in schools, even begin programs that might continue at Uncw.

If you others who are interested, please pass the information on. My goal for the next meeting is to continue the discussion, and begin to think about the creation of a steering committee who would be interested in taking the idea forward.