

Evolution Learning Community  
Executive Council Meeting with Provost  
September 20, 2005  
8:30 – 9:15 a.m., Provost's office

In attendance: Kathleen Berkeley, Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall; Provost Paul Hosier

Executive Council met with Provost Paul Hosier to apprise him of initial ELC plans and to request his support for the program.

Following presentation of ELC plans (see attached document), the following items were discussed:

- Potential relationship/similarity to American Democracy Project (ADP)
  - ADP perceived very favorably on campus; way of engaging entire campus
  - Can ELC be tied into ADP?
  - Similar in that ELC uses a single theme that can engage entire campus
  - Keep notes on “evolution” of ELC – may be model for other programs
  - Helpful to discuss similarities to ADC with Chancellor
- External perceptions important
  - ELC has potential for negative perceptions by community
  - ELC can be handled in such a way as to avoid such perceptions
- Internal perceptions
  - Need to demonstrate that entire campus is involved
  - ELC participation/support not restricted to College of Arts and Sciences
- Plans for communicating with UNCW administrators
  - Next step - Executive Council meeting with Chancellor
  - PK and DM meet with Dean's Council (November?)
- Other suggested activities of ELC
  - Report by Cahoon and Kobasko on Chautauqua conference attended this summer on teaching evolution
  - Long-term suggestion: hold Chautauqua workshops here
- Further involvement by Provost
  - Willing to write letters of support (e.g., for grant proposals)
  - Willing to attend future meetings of ELC committees
  - Provost will be kept apprised of plans by emailing him meeting minutes

## 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