

Evolution Learning Community  
Executive Council Meeting with Kemille Moore/Maggie Bannon  
November 16, 2006  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m., DL 113

In attendance: Maggie Bannon, Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall, Kemille Moore, Tom Schmid

Executive Council met with Dean of University College Kemille Moore and University College Academic Advisor Maggie Bannon to discuss integration of ELC with the freshman experience. The following opportunities were discussed.

- Cornerstone Learning Communities (CLC)
  - 9 residential learning communities planned for AY 07-08
  - ELC faculty are encouraged to submit CLC proposals involving Basic Studies courses related to evolution
  - Course is part of regular teaching load (proposals require department chair approval)
  - CLC requires linkage of two Basic Studies courses – KM’s office can help find “partners” for those interested in participating
  - Each CLC limited to 25 students who enroll in both partnered courses (plus a linked Freshman Seminar)
  - First-time faculty participants receive summer stipend of \$1500 for course development (\$1000 for repeaters)
- “Learning Links” between Basic Studies courses and Freshman Seminar (FS)
  - Students may enroll in a FS linked to a particular Basic Studies course (i.e., all 25 students in the FS will also enroll in the linked Basic Studies course)
  - Will allow departments to maintain larger enrollments in Basic Studies but will provide a subset of students with a unified BS/FS experience
  - FS instructors will be matched (re interest and expertise) with the linked Basic Studies course instructor
  - The linked FS will allow further exploration of the Basic Studies course themes via cultural events, discussion, etc.
  - FS students are required to participate in campus events (e.g., speakers)
  - Instructors of evolution-related Basic Studies courses are encouraged to develop FS links
  - Interested faculty should email Kemille Moore
- Freshman “common reading”
  - Committee currently exploring possibility of a common reading for freshmen
  - Could be linked to an opening convocation (e.g., author of common reading = convocation speaker)
  - Increase academic orientation of Welcome Week (e.g., film in Lumina Theater followed by roundtable discussion)
  - Common reading could have ELC theme – e.g., David Quammen’s *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*
- Other possibilities under consideration

- Learning communities not tied to Cornerstone Hall (e.g., students with a common interest area could be assigned a wing of another residence hall) – may start as early as 2007
- Development of a transfer student equivalent of learning communities – perhaps a few sections in 2008
- Higher-level equivalent of learning communities with travel component? (courses would have to be electives with few prerequisites)
- Other announcements not linked to University College topic:
  - Five ELC-related Cahill proposals have been funded, initiating the “Darwin Scholars program”
  - Faculty Senate passed a resolution (11/14) supporting the ELC program