

Evolution Learning Community
Full Committee Meeting
June 21, 2007
1:00 – 2:20 p.m.

In attendance: Karel Dutton, Patricia Kelley, Steve Meinhold, Martin Posey, Bob Roer, Tom Schmid, Patty Turrisi, Christy Visaggi

Executive Council reported on the American Democracy Project National Meeting.

- Provost Paul Hosier requested ELC attend the conference (recall his support of Darwin scholars, CV PhD and PK summer stipends)
- presented on campus links: ELC (PK) and *Brown vs. Board of Education* (TS)
- PPT available on TS website: <http://people.uncw.edu/schmidt/>
- remember ELC connection to ADP includes issues regarding the 1st Amendment
- Constitution Day at UNCW? Perhaps get ADP speaker sponsored by NY Times?

SM reported on HR rules at UNCW for Darwin Scholars

- if benefits received as part of compensation, required to do some sort of search
- if only a set stipend is given, no search is needed, ELC may choose recipients
- same search rules apply of benefits vs. stipend whether one or two candidates

PK reported on visit to NSF and grant options for ELC

- met w/ Lina Patino re proposal for Conservation Biology REU Site (Research Experience for Undergraduates)
 - research in paleontology, archaeology, and biology
 - collaborative among departments and between UNCW/Chapel Hill
 - TS asked about possible connection to BioBlitz?
- spoke w/ Dan Udovic (NSF Director of Undergraduate Education)
 - need initiative for permanent changes not just year celebration
 - potential options for faculty development
 - bring in community colleges for more \$\$
 - proposal deadline May 2008, so earliest support in January 2009
- spoke w/ Mary Ann Steiner (Informal Science Education)
 - need to partner w/ libraries, churches, museums (community organizations)
 - offer programs or lectures using above places as main venues
 - MP mentioned current UNCW link to plans at the Cape Fear Museum
 - opening of 2 yr. oceans exhibit Feb 2008, UNCW heavily involved
 - BR shall contact Ruth Haas (Director of Museum) about ELC options

Discussion Items

- Speaker Support
 - Sigma Xi (maybe host a state/regional symposium open to the public) and check current list of Sigma Xi sponsored speakers
 - Phi Kappa Phi (PT mentioned speaker \$\$ should be available)

- proposed Dale McCall should seek funding again from departments – very successful last year
- KD/Continuing Studies might be able to co-sponsor and provide support (especially in the form of advertising, bringing in people, listing in the *Pathways* mailing)
- Speaker ‘Hot Topics’
 - Evolution/Creation/ID Issues in Europe vs. USA
 - Selective Marketing of Textbooks
 - Evolutionary Psychology (Kim Sawrey interested)
 - Teaching Evolution (or Lack There of) in Schools
 - Sequencing Genomes, Differences in Humans/Neanderthals/Chimps
 - Quality of Science Education
 - Controlling Selection, Bioengineer/Clone: Ethical/Philosophical Issues
 - Seeing Speciation Occur as a Process
 - Why Care about Evolution, Human Implications
- Identifying Speakers
 - check w/ David Sepkoski: course on Darwin/Evolution (Spring 2008)
 - check w/ Mike McCartney: suggestions for DNA speaker in fall?
 - check w/ Alina Szmant for bringing Richard Leakey in spring?
- Student Conference
 - need to consider structure – different for undergraduates/graduates
 - perhaps 3 day conference – 1st day undergrads, 2nd/3rd days for grads
 - involve NC Academy of Science for undergrad portion?
 - set up money for travel support to bring in students nationwide
 - should utilize Darwin scholars as speakers for the meeting
 - get Science, Engineering, Arts projects in place for conference
 - CV, MP, PT, and McCartney interested in being on committee
 - schedule for Spring 2009 (students prepare presentations Fall 2008)
 - UNC Charlotte may have done similar conference – check for ideas
 - CV shall invite students Patti Mason (President of GSA), Hillary Lane (President of Bio GSA), Marina Picitelli (President of Beta Beta Beta), Pam Medley (President of Geology GSA) and Michael Polito (Biology – and potentially interested in organizing conference) to next ELC meeting
- Other
 - need to set up “Time Tables” – e.g, when send adverts for Darwin scholars
 - must discuss how best to use Darwin scholars (campus presentations etc.)
 - SM mentioned possibility of funding 5 more Cahills for next year
 - Kate Bruce should have updates on Galapagos options at a future meeting
 - PT reported that Deniz Chen is recruiting heavily for the Science, Engineering, and Arts Club. He has ideas for a self-contained ecosystem in the library and an Evolution Mobile. Needs more levels of participation.
 - Nobel Laureate Conference – Fall 2009 – BR check w/ people in Charlotte

- KD shall work with PK on Informal Science Education possibilities
- PK mentioned Super Saturdays connection (PK, TS, and Dale McCall)
- SM help search for ELC grant options and shall look into plans for future freshman common reading, maybe advocate *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* by David Quammen (and perhaps author could be selected as Darwin scholar)
- TS handed out updated ELC brochures, mentions Provost support of ELC