

Evolution Learning Community
Darwin Scholars Organizational Committee Meeting
October 3, 2007
3:30 - 4:30 p.m., BR 102

In attendance: Kate Bruce, Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall, Steve Meinhold, Kim Sawrey, Tom Schmid, David Sepkoski, Ron Sizemore, Patty Turrisi

ELC members met to discuss organization of the Visiting Darwin Scholars program. The following options were discussed for administration of program.

- Distribution of \$10k to each of five disciplinary groups for administration (proposed by Executive Council)
 - Would create more ownership by individual departments
 - Problem if different groups have different needs/opportunities for speakers
- Steering committee retains all \$50k and distributes funds as needed
 - Administration may be easier
 - Lacks departmental buy-in

After discussion, the following administrative structure/process was agreed upon.

- Call for proposals to host a Visiting Darwin Scholar will be issued to entire community
 - Requests can be for up to \$10k
 - Length of visit and proposed activities of scholars may vary
 - Proposals should indicate availability of other funds to help support visit (travel, lodging)
 - Proposals should provide information about scheduling (e.g., preferred semester, degree of flexibility, etc.)
 - Proposals must be signed by department chair
 - Funds will be administered by department to which proposer belongs
- Review of proposals
 - Proposals will be reviewed by following committee: Gessner, Kelley, McCall, Schmid, Sizemore (with consultation of other ELC members as needed)
 - Committee provides disciplinary breadth
 - Because of urgency to secure prominent scholars, review of proposals should begin ASAP (e.g., 11/15) and continue until all funds are dispersed
 - Committee will ensure that funded proposals fit the ELC parameters and achieve maximum benefit for the campus

Action items:

- Contact Provost to determine if funds are state funds or trust money (PK)
- Draft request for proposals (PK, DM, TS) for review by this group before distributing to campus