

Evolution Learning Community
Student Conference Planning Committee Meeting
November 3, 2007
3:30 - 4:30 p.m., BR 102

In attendance: Audra Burchfield (president, Beta Beta Beta), Tricia Kelley, Hillary Lane (president, Biology GSA), Patti Mason (president, UNCW GSA), Dale McCall, Mike McCartney, Martin Posey, Tom Schmid, Ron Sizemore, Patty Turrisi, Christy Visaggi

ELC members met to begin planning for the student conference to be held in Spring 2009. The following ideas were discussed.

- How to design conference for maximum impact and attendance
 - Interdisciplinary/integrative emphasis; general topic that several disciplines could address
 - Venue in which graduate and undergraduate students would be comfortable
 - Suggested interdisciplinary theme: impact of Darwin across disciplines (i.e., without Darwin, how would your discipline be different? What is contribution of Darwin to your field?)
- Format suggestions
 - Integrate rather than segregate talks by undergraduates and graduate students (to avoid feeling of “second-class citizens”)
 - Avoid concurrent sessions if possible to prevent disciplinary segregation
 - Employ various formats, including talks, posters (oral presenters also asked to prepare posters?), student panel discussions
 - Talks/posters can relate to individual student research projects; panels can connect this research to theme
 - Plenary addresses by keynote speakers tied to theme
 - Include graduate school recruitment forum (schools can pay to participate)
 - Set up system in which graduate students interact with/mentor undergraduates
 - Offer prizes for best papers/posters (different criteria for undergraduate and graduate students; status can be indicated on abstract submission form)
- Meeting logistics
 - Regional conference more feasible than national meeting (target schools in region, but accept contributions from outside region)
 - Best time = early April (but don't conflict with Azalea Festival)
 - Venue: Burney student center being renovated and would be appropriate for meeting this size
 - Housing: may be available in dorms, or have students stay with UNCW hosts
 - Schedule: opening evening reception and keynote speaker followed by 1.5 – 2 days of presentations, ending with closing party?
 - Wednesday/Thursday/Friday vs Thursday/Friday/Saturday? Latter may be preferable

Action items:

- Sizemore will find out if housing would be available on campus in spring 2009
- McCartney and Visaggi will work together to determine possible dates that don't conflict with other meetings, Azalea Festival, etc.
- Visaggi will check on event space availability
- All committee members should begin working on ideas for interdisciplinary sessions (i.e., questions that can be addressed by multiple disciplines)
- **Next meeting Wednesday 11/14/07 at 4 pm in DL 105**