

Evolution Learning Community
Executive Council Meeting with Provost
September 17, 2007
3:30 – 4:15 p.m., Provost's office

In attendance: Tricia Kelley, Dale McCall, Tom Schmid; Provost Paul Hosier

Executive Council met with Provost Paul Hosier to discuss possible modifications to the Visiting Darwin Scholars program. Provost had committed to \$50k to support the visits of two scholars for 6-8 weeks each (one each semester in AY 08-09).

Schmid reported on difficulty securing visiting scholars holding academic positions who would be able to make such a time commitment. He presented alternative model of dividing support into five \$10k "packages" to be distributed to departments or groups of departments to administer. A Darwin Scholars Coordinating Committee would coordinate these efforts and make sure the scholars would also interact with other departments.

Provost had no objection to concept; expressed some concern that increasing the number of scholars would increase the costs of travel. Discussed possible ways to reduce costs, including bringing scholars in winter when local hotels have lower rates, requesting occasional use of Creative Writing house, contributions from individual departments to support travel expenses.

Provost committed to supporting the new distributed model for Visiting Darwin Scholars.

Additional business included updating Provost on ELC activities, including:

- Submission of ELC-related NSF REU Site proposal by PK on 9/13/07 (\$535k)
- Constitution Day/Week activities (Mike McIntyre interview broadcast on 9/17/07; 9/19/07 visit of Cory Dean of NY Times)
- Super Saturday evolution event sponsored by Continuing Studies 11/10/07 (lectures by PK, DM, TS)
- Screening of *Flock of Dodos* for Darwin Day 2008
- McCartney and Sepkoski to secure speakers for fall and spring semesters
- Galapagos trip for S08 cancelled due to rise in cost beyond what students can afford; PK to meet with Bruce and Dutton to begin discussing plans for following year