

Evolution Learning Community  
Student Conference Planning Committee Meeting  
January 30, 2008  
10:00 – 11:30 am, DL 113

In attendance: Audra Burchfield, Kate Bruce, Tricia Kelley, Patti Mason, Dale McCall, Mike McCartney, Martin Posey, Tom Schmid, Christy Visaggi; education students Jennifer Coston, John Derian and Kristen Trotter

ELC members met to continue planning for the student conference to be held in Spring 2009.

Kelley announced commitment of \$25k from Provost (\$10k for student travel grants, \$15k for keynote speakers).

Follow-up on action items from previous meeting were discussed.

- Meeting logistics
  - Visaggi checked on dates of additional scientific meetings and best times still appear to be either weekend of 3/20-21/09 or 3/27-28/09 (latter date preferred)
  - Also need to check on date for SE Psychological Association conference and “Soaring to Greatness” event – Visaggi will investigate
  - Burchfield (on Student Life Committee) reported about the planned opening of the Burney Center, which will seat up to 1000 people in ballroom; Fisher Center rooms can be used also, and/or Warwick (e.g., for posters); Visaggi will check again to see when they will be taking reservations for Burney
- Meeting format:
  - Would include keynote speakers, volunteered poster sessions, and oral presentations selected from among the poster submissions
  - For oral sessions, use combination of oral theme sessions solicited in advance (e.g., on interdisciplinary questions previously suggested) and topical sessions developed based on submitted abstracts
  - Posey proposed a tentative organizational plan as follows
    - Informal welcome party Thursday evening (e.g., 6:00 – 9:00 pm)
    - Friday: 9:00 am to noon formal welcome and opening plenary with keynote speaker, noon – 1:00 pm lunch; 1:00-4:00 pm concurrent oral sessions, 4:00 – 6:00 pm poster session with beer
    - Saturday: 9 – 10:30 am plenary with keynote speaker, 10:45 – noon concurrent oral sessions, noon-1 pm lunch, 1:00-4:00 pm concurrent oral sessions, 4 – 6:00 pm posters with beer; 6:30 – 9:00 banquet with keynote speaker
  - McCall proposed that posters related to oral presentations be displayed prior to the corresponding talk
- Additional points to consider
  - Include movie viewing, possibly during welcome party?
  - Could teachers receive continuing education credits for attending?
  - Include event for local high school students, or are we overextending ourselves?
  - Employment of Visiting Darwin Scholars as keynote speakers? Might need to arrive early to fulfill responsibility to UNCW classes
  - Begin to advertise at conferences this spring
  - When budget is developed, request funds from other sources
    - Society for Study of Evolution – McCartney will pursue
    - Chancellor

- Student associations
- Logistical issues
  - Shuttle bus transportation to hotels
  - Parking
  - Volunteers to help with conference? From among those receiving travel grants? UNCW students?
  - Housing – option to stay with UNCW hosts?
  - Website for conference
  - Partner with bookstore to display evolution books (or work with publishers?)

The following subcommittees were established for further planning. Visaggi will set up meetings prior to next large group meeting (to be held on 2/27/08 at noon; Visaggi to set up).

- Program (including issue of keynote speakers): Derian, Kelley, McCall, McCartney, Posey, Schmid, Turrisi, Visaggi
- Logistics (including budget, social events): Bruce (with assistance of Bo Dean), Burchfield, Coston (who will contact Karen Shafer re continuing education credits) Kelley, Sizemore, Visaggi
- Publicity/website: Fritzler, Kelley, Mason, McCall (for verbiage), Visaggi; possibly someone from Graduate School and/or computer science graduate student Allen Rawls for web help