Faculty Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2014

PRESENT: Amasino, Butcher, Clagett-Dame, Cox, Craig, Fox, Hoskins, Kiessling, Kimble, Landick, Markley, Ntambi, Pagliarini, Palmenberg, Pike, Ralph, Rayment, Record, Sussman, Wildonger

ABSENT: Ansari, Attie, Bednarek, Friesen, Hayes, Holden, Martin, Mitchell, Raines, Senes, Weibel, Wickens

Ms. Craig called the meeting to order.

1. Ms. Kiessling made an announcement reminding faculty of the upcoming Steenbock Symposium and adjoining CBI (Chemistry Biology Interface) Conference. Please contact Ms. Kiessling regarding students who should be encouraged to register for the CBI portion of the meeting.

2. IPiB students Erin Ronayne and Ginny Kincaid joined the meeting to review plans for the 2014 IPiB Retreat, to be held at the Overture Center on September 12, 2014. Discussion and suggestions for the schedule followed. Ms. Ronayne and Kincaid exited the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

3. Ms. Craig provided an update from her annual meeting with Dean VandenBosch. The Dean has given permission for Biochemistry to hire a minimum of two new faculty members over the next five years, with the understanding that Biochemistry will pay salary for the new hire(s) until a current faculty member retires. These hires are understood to be independent of the NMR faculty hire (search in progress). Faculty asked for two points of clarification: whether salary reverts to the college not only for retirement but also in the case of a faculty member leaving the university, and if either position could be at the tenured level. Mr. Landick made a motion that the faculty endorse Ms. Craig’s returning to the Dean to clarify and work toward this goal. Ms. Kiessling seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Paul Ahlquist (Plant Pathology) joined the meeting to discuss a proposal to bring a Cryo-EM detector to campus. He is proposing the purchase of a K2 Summit at the cost of approximately $800,000. He will request $400,000 from HHMI, and is optimistic about their contribution. Additional donors are needed at the University to supply matching funds. Discussion followed regarding the capabilities of the detector and vision for the facility. Mr. Ahlquist exited the meeting and the faculty continued discussion. Mr. Butcher made a motion stating that Biochemistry will provide support of $100,000 (increasing up to $133,000 if it becomes necessary in order to obtain the equipment). Mr. Landick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
5. Mr. Pagliarini reviewed the planned updates to the departmental seminar series as voted upon in December 2013. Nominations for the Green Lecturer for spring 2015 were announced and discussed. Votes were counted for each, with Kevan Shokat receiving the most votes (8), and Wayne Hendrickson receiving the second most votes (6). Ms. Kiessling agreed to invite Kevan Shokat; Wayne Hendrickson will be invited if Dr. Shokat is unavailable.

Mr. Pagliarini also introduced the idea of creating a new international Steenbock named lecture, to be given by an international speaker. Discussion followed. Mr. Cox made a motion that the department establish a Steenbock International named lectureship. Mr. Fox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Wildonger discussed a proposal to establish a Genome Engineering Center on campus. Discussions across Biochemistry, Biomedical Engineering, BMC, and Genetics indicate the desire for such a center to facilitate the use of genome engineering techniques. Ms. Wildonger requests feedback from the faculty regarding what resources are wanted in the center. Additional information can be found at geewisc.wisc.edu.

7. Mr. Landick provided a report from the BIF committee. Tom Record is now the Officer-in-Charge of BIF. Dan Stevens was hired as a new BIF scientist in January 2014; a search is underway for an optical core scientist. A plan for renovation has been submitted to FPM, with design work to begin in Fall 2014 and renovations to be completed in Fall 2016. New microscopes and several new instruments have been added to the BIF (see attached for list). Efforts to obtain a new mass spec are in progress: the committee requests that faculty email Darrell McCaslin with descriptions of suggested capabilities for the new instrument (Darrell is uncertain what new capabilities are needed that are not provided by the existing MALDI-TOF). Please copy the committee on the email (Tom Record, Bob Landick, Aaron Hoskins, Tom Martin).

8. Ms. Kimble provided an update on CALS Strategic Planning. The Basic Life Sciences working group has come up with a list of ideas and corresponding goals, two of which will presented and discussed with the other working groups at their April 15 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.
BIF Committee report  April 11, 2014
Bob Landick, chair
Aaron Hoskins, Tom Record (Biophysics focus), Tom Martin (Microscopy focus)

The BIF committee has meet several times this year to implement the plans adopted by the faculty last year to upgrade the BIF, add an optical core, and increase its usage by researchers inside and outside the department. Key points are as follows.

1. Tom Record is now the Officer-in-Charge of the BIF.

2. A new BIF scientist, Dan Stevens, was hired after a national search. Dan was a postdoc in Judith Burstyn’s lab, and started Jan 13. Dan has been learning instruments from Darrell and is chiefly focused on developing a new BIF web site, developing outreach plans, planning new accounting procedures, and investigating options for on-line instrument sign up.

3. A search is underway for an optical core scientist, led by Tom Martin. The search is now at the stage of selecting applicants to interview.

4. New microscopes have been purchased for the optical core:
a Nikon TIRF/STTORM/PALM and a Nikon N-SIM. Allowing for costs of needed equipment to optimize their utility (CO2 incubator, BL2 hood, freezer), enough funds remain to enable or partially enable purchase of a confocal, depending on a model proposed. This will come back to the faculty for approval.

5. Several new instruments have been added to the BIF. We owe Aaron Hoskins special thanks for making this happen.
   Tecan M1000 plate reader
   Wyatt Helios multiangle light scattering system
   Mobius zeta potential/Dynamic light scattering instrument
   Biorad digital droplet PCR instrument
   Biorad real-time PCR instrument
   Millipore DirectDetect IR instrument
   Quantus fluorimeter (Promega)
   Maker Bot 3D printer
   Artel Pipette Calibration System

6. Efforts to obtain a new mass spec for the BIF are in progress. Darrell is uncertain what new capabilities are needed that are not provided by the existing MALDI-TOF. We’ve asked Darrell to survey the department about requirements, but even before he does that it will be helpful if anyone who has specific needs could email them to Darrell and cc the committee on the email.

7. A plan has been submitted to FPM for renovation of the BIF on the ground floor of the 85 wing. The renovation will include space for the optical core. The plan calls for design work to start Fall, 2014, for the BIF to move to the 4th floor of the 85 wing in Fall, 2015, and for renovation to be complete and the BIF to move back into the renovated space on the ground floor of the 85 wing in Fall, 2016.