Faculty Meeting Minutes  
Friday, November 13, 2015: 10:00am – 12:00pm

PRESENT: Amasino, Attie, Bednarek, Butcher, Cox, Fox, Friesen, Henzler-Wildman, Holden, Kimble, Landick, Mitchell (arrived 10:02), Ntambi, Pagliarini (exited 11:43), Raines, Raman, Rayment, Senes (exited 10:48), Sussman (arrived 10:11; exited 10:47), Weibel (exited 11:30), and Wildonger

ABSENT: Ansari, Clagett-Dame, Craig, Hayes, Hoskins, Kiessling, Markley, Martin, Palmenberg, Pike, Ralph, Record, and Wickens

Fox called the meeting to order (10:02).

1. (10:02) Fox announced the following items:
   a. Thank you to Bob Landick for spearheading the Cryo-EM seminar series. A position document is being prepared by Paul Ahlquist to share with campus administration.
   b. Scott Aoki is the winner of the 2016 Boyer Award for Postdoctoral Excellence. His public seminar will be held in conjunction with the IPiB Poster Session on Friday, January 29, 2016.
   c. Nominations for 2016-17 Departmental Fellowships are due to Sarah Saunders by December 15, 2015 (for CALS Fellowship consideration), and early February 2016 (date to be announced) for Departmental consideration.
   d. Landick will circulate a list of postdocs known to be working in Biochemistry faculty labs. The list may not be exhaustive; please respond to Landick and Sarah Saunders with any additions.
   e. The Endowment motion (see minutes from October 9, 2015 meeting) passed with a vote of 24 in favor, 2 opposed, 8 abstained.
   f. A repair of the Biochemistry Labs emergency power system will begin Monday, November 16; the system will be offline as of Tuesday, November 17, and is expected to be reinstated the following week. Barring an event significant enough to disrupt the primary power system, the building should not be affected.
   g. The SFLC-coordinated Winter Reception will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015. The entire department is invited. No alcohol will be provided.

2. (10:09) Fox encouraged faculty to submit a Benefunder proposal in response to CALS’ announcement. Proposals will be evaluated in relation to CALS strategic research priorities. The
Department will pay the required $2500 participation fee for proposals that are accepted for development by Benefunder.

3. (10:15) Wildonger reported for the Seminar Committee. Nominations for the Steenbock and International Steenbock named lectureships were announced and voted upon. Joseph Thornton (nominator: Raman) was first choice for the Steenbock lectureship, with Jennifer Doudna and Aziz Sancar following in second and third, respectively. Wildonger made a motion to schedule Thornton within the next year; potentially add a day and named lectureship to Doudna’s already-scheduled visit; and schedule Sancar in 2017-18.

Regarding the Doudna invitation, it was also note that the IPiB graduate students have worked for some time to secure a seminar visit with Jennifer Doudna, and that their interests and priorities in carrying out this invitation and seminar process have precedent. Any proposals to change the Doudna visit currently being arranged by the IPiB students require their assent. Hoskins will lead these discussions.

4. Landick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Svaante Paabo (nominator: Ansari) was first choice for the International Steenbock lectureship, with Edward Bayer (nominator: Fox) the second choice.

5. (10:53) Amasino reported for the Space Committee. Julius Adler is vacating his space on the 4th floor of Biochemistry Labs; Kiessling has requested incorporating this space into her lab. Amasino made a motion to approve that Adler’s 4th floor space [457 suite] be assigned to the Kiessling lab. Cox seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. (10:55) Butcher reported for the Apparatus Committee. The Biochemistry intranet has a catalogue of departmental equipment with contact and user information: https://biochem.wisc.edu/equipment. The Committee will contact the faculty in the near future to solicit proposals for the annual Apparatus fund allocation, and to assess service contract needs.

7. (10:58) Fox advised the faculty that the Wasson Professorship in the Biochemistry of Higher Animals, currently held by Martin, is up for renewal. Fox reviewed the Department’s selection process for professorships. Cox made a motion to approve the minor revision replacing “Dean of the Graduate School” with “Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education,” which was seconded by Amasino; Landick made a motion to revise “three external scientists in the field of” to “three scientists external to the University in the field of,” which was seconded by Kimble. Fox proposed that the nomination period be left open for one week; no selection committee need be arranged if the incumbent is the only nominee; the Executive Committee will vote on the final assignment. Landick made a motion to proceed as Fox suggested; Mitchell seconded the motion. The three motions were voted upon as one, and passed unanimously.
8. (11:05) Fox opened a discussion on faculty hiring. Fox advised the faculty of CALS’ faculty position proposal request; the proposal is to be based on CALS’ Strategic Plan, and is due January 31, 2016. Fox reminded the faculty of the Department’s Vision for Future Hires document, which has been viewed and noted by the Dean. Biochemistry has been approached by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education to gauge interest in a potential “spousal” [partner] hire; the CV and research statement of Sloan Devlin were discussed. Fox proposed a day of strategic planning to be attended by faculty, facilitated by the Office of Quality Improvement, and funded by the Dean. A poll will be distributed to identify a date in January 2016.

The meeting was adjourned (11:45).

Respectfully submitted,

Brian G. Fox
Chair, Department of Biochemistry
Department of Biochemistry Selection Process for Professorships

Selection process for the Steenbock Research Professorship and other named professorships in the Department of Biochemistry:

• A selection committee composed of three scientists external to the University in the field of biochemistry will be selected by the Biochemistry Chair and approved by the Biochemistry faculty. The faculty shall also appoint the committee chair from the three committee members.
• All Biochemistry faculty are eligible for the award.
• Any two Biochemistry faculty may nominate someone.
• Credentials of nominees will be forwarded to the selection committee.
• The committee will rank nominations in order of scientific excellence and scientific contributions in the field of biochemistry.
• The committee chair will inform the Executive Committee of the Department who will make the final selection.
• The professorship is assigned for a period of 10 years, with the possibility of renewal.

This procedure will provide a quality successor for the professorship. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education makes the appointment, providing for administrative oversight.

Approved November 2015