

EEB Supervisory Committee Meeting  
27 March 2008

## Proposed Agenda

1. Supercom minutes
    - a. discussion
    - b. approval
  2. Report from Curriculum Committee:
    - a. update regarding new core course proposal
    - b. timeline for faculty meeting
    - c. strategy for voting and implementation
  3. Deutsch faculty membership request.
  4. Admissions update
    - a. status of accepted / declined offers
    - b. implications relating to the request of a fourth Grad College RA award
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## Minutes

Meeting convened at 12:40 PM in 255 Bessey.

Present were Anne Bronikowski, Greg Courtney, Jennifer Deitloff, Mark Kaiser, John Nason, and Charles Sauer.

### 1. Supercom minutes

a.

Action Item: Discussion of Supercom minutes

In response to a resolution adopted at the 14 February Supercom meeting, formal minutes of all 2008 meetings to date were drafted and submitted to committee members for review prior to this meeting. Review of the minutes stimulated discussion of the appropriate public disclosure of certain information. Details of students records, beyond information approved for public distribution by the university, are considered to be confidential. This confidential information figures prominently in Supercom discussions of admissions and student awards but must be appropriately protected. Consequently, it would be inappropriate to divulge the details in program minutes.

Resolved: During discussions of confidential information, it was proposed and adopted that the committee will formally enter a "closed session." During such times, discussions will be recorded but the public minutes will indicate that the committee entered a closed session.

Resolutions emerging from closed sessions will be recorded in the public minutes as long as they do not in themselves reveal or make any direct references to confidential information.

b.

Action Item: approval of recorded minutes

Given the discussion noted above in 1.a, the committee was unable to approve the minutes as presently recorded.

Resolved: Charles will revise all minutes up to the present meeting, applying university rules relating to confidential information and the resolution adopted pertaining to closed sessions. The revised minutes will be circulated among committee members and then voted upon for approval at the next Supercom meeting.

## 2. Report from the Curriculum Committee

a.

Action Item: update regarding new core course proposal

Mark Kaiser took the floor and distributed copies of the outline of the new core course. The Ad Hoc Committee has completed its task in developing the proposal. The Curriculum Committee reviewed the proposal and deemed it acceptable for transmission to and review by the Supercom.

The course outline is divided into five instructional units, with an option to add a sixth. The document distributed included draft examples of the five units. It is recommended that one primary instructor be assigned as the leader of an instructional team of 3-5 members. The committee further reviewed and discussed details of the core course structure.

Resolved: No specific action required or taken.

b.

Action Item: time line for faculty meetings

Mark Kaiser reported that the Curriculum Committee recommends that the course proposal be sent forward as soon as possible to the entire program faculty for review and comment. After brief discussion, the committee members concurred and developed a time line.

Resolved: Mark will distribute the core course outline via e-mail to all faculty and students, inviting written comments to be submitted to the Curriculum Committee no later than 4 April. Two plenary faculty meetings will be convened: the first on 17 April, at 12:00 to 2:00 PM, the second on 25 April, at 9:00 to 11:00 AM. These sessions will be devoted to open discussion of the proposal. Voting on the proposal will not be conducted at these meetings.

c.

Action Item: strategy for voting and implementation

The policy for conducting voting was reviewed briefly. Regarding implementation: presuming the new course were to be approved by faculty vote, the members of the Curriculum Committee advise that the course be first introduced in Fall 2009 as there is inadequate time to prepare

course content and to secure instructional staff for Fall 2008 (originally the goal for implementation). The Supercom members present concurred with this view.

In the near-term, it was proposed that one of the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 EEB seminar (698) sections be employed as testing grounds for units of the new course (presuming faculty approve the course proposal).

Resolved: A faculty vote will be taken on the new course proposal soon after the second plenary meeting on a date to be determined by the Supercom.

Follow-on action regarding listing the new course and offering trial seminar sections will be taken appropriate to the outcome of the faculty vote.

d. *ad hoc* addition

Action Item: review of proposed upcoming EEB 585 and 698 offerings

Mark Kaiser reviewed progress with field trip and seminar offerings. The following offerings were discussed briefly.

Seminars (EEB 698)

- F08 seminar – Evolution & Ecology of Vision, Jeanne Serb
- F08 seminar – test unit of core course – *tentative*
- S09 seminar – Women in Science, Bonnie Bowen – *tentative*
- S09 seminar – test unit of core course – *tentative*
- F09 seminar – Evolution & Ecology of Sex, Nicole Valenzuela – *tentative*
- S10 seminar – Darwin’s Life & Work, Anne Bronikowski – *tentative*

Field Trips (EEB 585)

- S08 – Southern Prairies & Wetlands, Brian Wilsey – confirmed
- F08 – Baja California, John Nason & Jeanne Serb – confirmed
- May or August 2009 – Great Basin, Bill Clark & Lyric Bartholomay – *tentative*
- Winter 2010 or 2011 – Yellowstone, Bill Clark et al. – *tentative*

Resolved: The Curriculum Committee will follow up with the indicated prospects.

3. William Deutsch faculty membership request

Action Item: In February of this year, the NREM Department circulated a term faculty membership application to the Graduate College for Dr. William Deutsch, a research fellow at Auburn University. Unknown to the program at the time, the EEB major was added to this application. The request was reviewed and approved by the Graduate College, but the assistant dean there, noting that EEB was included, sent a copy of the request to the program office for review. Charles Sauer contacted Dr. Deutsch to determine his intentions as nothing in the documents he submitted indicated a specific interest in EEB. Dr. Deutsch responded, indicating that his interest was specific to serving on the POS committee of a student in the Sustainable Agriculture program. He did not express interest in joining EEB.

Resolved: Given Dr. Deutsch's specific intention to join the Forestry and Sustainable Agriculture programs, the members voted to table the application. Charles will contact the Graduate College and advise them accordingly.

4. Admissions update: **Committee session was closed at this time.** The student committee representative withdrew from the room.

a.

Action Item: Status of accepted and declined offers.

Resolved: Agenda item was tabled due to lack of time.

b.

Action Item: Proposal to seek a fourth RA award from the Graduate College.

Resolved: Members voted to support the proposal to seek a fourth RA award. Charles will prepare a memo for review by Greg Courtney for transmission to the Graduate College as soon as possible.

5. Special student request – *ad hoc agenda item*

Action Item: Greg Courtney assigned two review tasks, one each to the chairs of the Curriculum and Admissions Committees pertaining to a student's request for a field trip waiver and change of status.

Resolved: The respective chairs will take the tasks to their committees for review and decision.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.