

Quantitative Biology Initiative

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

October 9, 2009

Attendees: Bob Hausinger, Peter Bates, David Arnosti, Rob Britton, Shelagh Ferguson-Miller, Wenjiang Fu, Helen Geiger, Lisa Lapidus, Claire Vieille, and David Weliky

Not able to attend: Titus Brown, Robin Buell, Christina Chan, Bob Cukier, and Charles Ofria

Agenda:

1. Announcements:

- a. The Molecular Biophysics Training Grant (NIH T32) will undergo a site review on Oct. 29! The 16 participating faculty (PD = Bob Hausinger) include: Babak Borhan (CEM), Christina Chan (CHE/CSE/BMB), Michael Feig (BMB/CEM/CSE/CMB), Shelagh Ferguson-Miller (BMB/CMB), Michael Garavito (BMB/GEN), Robert Hausinger (MMG/BMB/CMB), Eric Hegg (BMB/CMB), Charles Hoogstraten (BMB/CMB), Xuefei Huang (CEM), Daniel Jones (BMB/CEM/GEN), Lisa Lapidus (PHY), John McCracken (CEM), Gavin Reid (CEM/BMB), Dana Spence (CEM), Claire Vieille (MMG/BMB/GEN), David Weliky (CEM/CMB). These individuals and students in their labs will be prepped to meet with the site review team. The proposal will be reviewed on Nov. 9-10.
- b. The Cell & Molecular Biology Training Grant (NIH T32) will be reviewed on Nov. 10. This proposal has 40 participating faculty (PD = David Arnosti).

2. Discussions with Dean Kirkpatrick

- a. Peter Bates and Bob Hausinger had a QBI meeting with Dean Kirkpatrick as part of his budget meetings with all units. We used this opportunity to educate the Dean about the many diverse QBI activities (SATE seminars, conferences, bioinformatics workshop, stimulating preparation of grant proposals, and running the QB grad program and its courses). We emphasized the unique aspects of QBI and how it has served to entice new faculty and students to come to MSU, and we stressed how Helen serves a unique role by assisting with student issues, budget, conference details, and seminars. He emphasized cost saving needs and stressed the need to assemble quantifiable metrics to show what has been accomplished because of QBI. He was very positive about the T32 site visit and thinks that successful external support is critical to continued support by the college. Indeed, the Dean suggested that units should bring in IDC that is 4 times the funds provided to that unit by the college. The Dean indicated that funding from MAES (for the Science at the Edge seminars and conferences) was in peril,

but said that CNS has some funding for conferences (from the Leroi grant) and that student support for conferences may be available from the Grad School.

- b. David Arnosti had a GEDD meeting with the Dean for the same purpose. He also emphasized the importance of Helen in providing the glue for getting things done.
 - c. Metrics to be assembled for QBI: In the short term (this weekend) Peter Bates will assemble representative success stories that have occurred because of QBI (ARRA funding obtained due to QBI supported student work, former QBI-supported student now an Assist Prof, QB being integral to recruiting a female grad student in Math, etc.). This information will be provided to the Dean on Monday. Longer term, we will assemble a list of metrics including: successful grant proposals that arose because of QBI, new collaborations attributed to QBI as evidenced by publications, who has received fellowship support from QBI and what was the outcome of that support, how many students have joined and matriculated from the QB graduate program, etc. Bob Hausinger will prepare an email to seek input from QBI faculty and Helen will compile information on QBI-supported students.
3. QB 829 in Spring, 2010, and beyond.

Dr. Wedemeyer will not be teaching QB 829 during the Spring 2010 semester (8:00 am to 8:50 MWF in 1420 BPS), so the Exec Comm discussed options for who might become involved and how this will occur. A key point is the need to institutionalize the courses so that they become considered part of the normal teaching loads for the participating departments. Bob Hausinger has overview of the course and will obtain a more detailed syllabus. He will then ask selected individuals if they would coordinate the course, with the teaching to be done by others (perhaps including upper level graduate students and postdocs) in 2-3 week modules. Longer term, an early Spring request to QBI faculty will emphasize the need for everyone to commit to the QB Grad Program by volunteering to lead modules in these courses. Similarly, an email to chairs with QBI faculty will plead for reduced teaching loads in those departments for faculty teaching in QBI.