

iBio CDI Committee Meeting

3 March, 2023

Cathy Auger (chair), Tony Ives (scribe), Christopher Warneke, Arielle Link, David Ehrlich, James Vandenberg, Grace Wilkinson, Kelin Boldiis, Laura Monihan

1. Diversity scholarship update (Tony)

We just discovered that there were problems with Simon's opportunity in WISH hub; it was automatically excluding freshmen applicants and applicants with <3.0 GPA. Cathy managed to rescue these applications and make them active again. There are nine applicants, and we will start to evaluate them.

2. Accessibility update (Christopher and Grace)

2a. Update on progress of Birge 425 restroom

Despite our arguments, Facilities still wants us to pay \$10K for removing urinals. We have found no State or University policy that supports Facilities stance, and there are non-gendered restrooms elsewhere on campus that contain urinals. We discussed options for proceeding.

2b. Discussion of a possible new iBio committee for social activities

We thought this would be a good idea for iBio to have a committee for social activities, especially if there was a budget. Grace will share with Lauren that this idea is strongly supported by the CDI Committee.

2c. Discussion around departmental scholarship/fellowships deadlines and timeline flexibility

There is a need to be transparent about flexibility for both applying for and spending departmental scholarships and fellowships. In fact, the fellowships and scholarships are likely to be quite flexible, although this information needs to be broadly available. Tony will contact Julie and the departmental Awards Committee, and then Cathy and Kelin can put this up onto the website.

3. Common room in iBio Research, Noland, and Birge update

3a. iBio Research

iBio Research 415 is getting populated with furniture and other items. Faculty are doing work such as painting personally, rather than through Facilities. A lot of items such as furniture are available at SWAP.

3b. Noland

The Noland committee is still in brainstorming phase about what to do and how much it will cost.

3c. Birge

The only space available is 124 Birge. Cathy talked with former chair of DEI committee in Botany (Anne Pringle), and Cathy is now pursuing this with current chair of Botany DEI committee.

4. BREWS (David)

BREWS is useful and well-attended. David is still thinking about how to generate more participation and serve the goals of postdocs on campus.

5. iBio outreach to K-12 (Tony)

Cathy suggested in the fall that we could organize a tutoring initiative for undergraduates to help with Upward Bound in the Madison Metropolitan School District. Tony has started discussions with Brenda Yang, the Upward Bound coordinator. He is also tutoring high school students in math to see how a program of undergraduate tutors would work.

6. Additional Discussion

We discussed possible ways to address uncertainty among iBio staff and faculty about the proposed merger with Botany.

Other notes

L&S March Plenary was focused on DEI. There are two relevant documents:

<https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group86/107260/2022-2023/March/SUMMARY2022LSReports.pdf>

<https://kb.wisc.edu/images/group86/107260/2022-2023/March/23-24LSDEIPriorities-final.pdf>