

QoL Meeting Minutes

Chaired by John Rearick (rearick@fas.harvard.edu),
and Melissa Grachan (grachan@fas.harvard.edu),
in Mb-217

March 1st, 2005 at 12h

1 Library/stockroom Status Update

Prof. Friend, unable to attend, sent a note outlining the current status of the library. At this point, all work on archiving and transfer has been stopped. Other work such as cleaning and relabeling the monographs based on the Library of Congress system will take place in the coming months nonetheless. Also, the stockroom will be moved to the basement of Converse in a near future. The space where the it currently stands has already been reallocated for other purposes.

Tony Shaw gave the background on the plan of moving of the library. The main motivation behind it is that the faculty needs to grow. Recently, the demands of the undergraduate and graduate curricula and the recommendations of the Visiting Committee have made this issue even more pressing. However, the amount of space currently available does not allow for recruitment of new experimental faculty members, as it does not allow for competitive laboratory settings. For that purpose, as early as three years ago the front office identified the current CCB library space as a possible option for expansion. Due to various other constraints, no other location in the current CCB facilities is available.

It is in this context that last term, a senior hiring offer was made, which would have required moving and downsizing the library to accommodate the new laboratory. This, concurrently with Prof. Park's being granted new space to allow for vibration sensitive experiments, would require the building of a new in-fill in the southern courtyard of the CCB complex. In addition to the library space, the new faculty member would have occupied the second floor of that new construction, then connected to Mallinckrodt Link. Now that the offer has been formally declined, there are three possible scenarios still on the table.

- Use all the library space and an in-fill with two floors to provide 9000 sq. ft. of laboratory space at the cost of \$5-8M for some future faculty hiring.
- Use the part of the library without the wood panels (back) and an in-fill with two floors to provide 6000 sq. ft. of laboratory space at the cost of about \$4M.
- Build a one story in-fill, and leave the library untouched.

Whichever option is selected in the coming months will have to be definitive. It will not technically be possible to modify the design once the construction work on Prof. Park's space will have begun. However, the final decision does not only lie in the CCB faculty's hands, but also in those of the FAS central committee, which would need to approve the cost of such work.

As for larger scale expansions, this will not be of the department's direct resort either. The establishment of the Division of Life Sciences has somewhat shifted the centers of decision. The new entity has a great say in these projects. However, it has not yet come up with a detailed plan for space reallocation in Cambridge and it is unlikely that it does so before a few years. The long-term hope of the CCB administration is to get a hold of neighboring buildings, as some of their current occupants move into the multi-disciplinary space, Northwest Laboratories, now under construction. Finally, any option in Allston is for an even longer time horizon.

Tony Shaw took responsibility for not having informed the students earlier on the decisions about the library and the stockroom. After a vote, the project of holding a town-hall meeting about the students' and faculty members' feelings on these issues has been postponed. This will allow time for more information to become available and for the situation to be reassessed. Stay tuned...

2 Graduate Course Offering

Prof. Myers indicated that no new development had taken place on this issue. However, the curricular committee is supposed to finalize its plan in the next couple of weeks. However, no fundamental changes are expected and no solution for the graduate course offering is in sight.

The letter sent to Dean Ellison has not been answered yet. Also, his leaving his position this June might slow down GSAS assistance in trying to find solutions to the current lack of teaching resources in CCB.

3 G_0 Visits/Hosting

Anneka came to talk about the March 11 and 18 visiting weekends. Courtney Yuen and Marie Spong have worked with her on organizing both weekends. The Friday night outing will be at Cambridge Commons and will be limited to \$25 per person. Hosts or a substitute from their research group will accompany the visiting students. A list of G_0 's visiting date will soon be distributed to the students involved.

4 Career Seminar

The next career seminar will take place on March 8, at 16h15. Jeff Tong who graduated from the Schreiber group in 2000 will be talking about his experience

at Infinity Pharmaceuticals. The sign up sheet is now posted on the bulletin board in the alcove near the mailboxes.

5 Research Seminars

Prof. Ian Flemming from Oxford University will be visiting CCB at the students' invitation on April 26 and 27.

Prof. Susan Walker has accepted the QoL invitation to spend a day with the students and give a talk in May.

Meeting adjourned at 13h15.
Notes taken by Patrick Charbonneau (pcharbon@fas.harvard.edu)