

Committee on Academic Priorities (CAP)

Intended Requests for *Tenure Track* and *Continuing Non-Tenure Track* Positions for 2009-2010

5 October 2009
(updated 4 November 2009)

Biology

The Biology Department intends to request a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Ecology to replace a tenure-track department member who left the College in the summer of 2009. This request is consistent with the commitment of the Biology Department to both disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs at the College. The sub-discipline of Ecology enriches the Biology Department's broad-based curriculum through investigation of large-scale population issues, species interactions and biological diversity in relation to the environment. In addition, Ecology is also a core component of the College's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies program. In 2007-2008, CAP authorized and the President approved a search for a Computational Ecologist to complement the existing Field Ecology position and strengthen expertise in computational biology, and the Biology Department conducted a successful search in 2008-2009. With the recent departure of the Field Ecologist, the presence of ecology in the College's curriculum will be dramatically reduced to a level below that which was provided in recent years. In addition, as was recognized by the 2007-2008 endorsements of CAP and the President for the Computational Ecologist position, a single ecologist in the Biology Department cannot adequately meet the needs of both the Department and the Environmental Studies program. Therefore, if this proposal is approved, the Biology Department will seek a broadly trained empirical Field Ecologist with research and teaching interests that will both complement areas represented within our department and enhance the Environmental Studies program, such as studies of ecosystem processes or other areas related to conservation biology. By conducting an open search, the Department anticipates attracting a large number of excellent candidates with diverse interests, giving us an opportunity to identify those whose versatility will best serve the needs of the Biology Department and the College.

Biology

The Department of Biology intends to submit a proposal to convert the interim postbaccalaureate lecturer position to either a continuing non-tenure track position or a tenure-track position.

Chemistry

This letter announces the Chemistry Department's desire to search for a tenure-line teacher-scholar chemist during the 2010-2011 Academic Year. The successful candidate

will be an experimental chemist who is able to teach organic chemistry and who has diverse teaching interests that may include Research Methodology, an upper level course suitable for seniors and Graduate Students, and perhaps a ½ semester module in our newly proposed General Chemistry program. Of the various subspecialties in organic chemistry, we feel that candidates interested in environmental, material, or biological organic chemistry would best complement current faculty and student interests. An environmental organic chemist would interface well with the Bryn Mawr Geology Department and both the Bryn Mawr and Haverford environmental programs and add expertise in organic environmental materials. An organic chemist interested in materials may share interests with Bi-Co chemists and physicists. A bio-organic chemist could add to existing departmental strengths and simultaneously help us to implement the proposed Medical School requirements that emphasize biochemistry over organic chemistry. They will also may also interact with biologists and, with Biology, may help us mount a more robust Biochemistry Program.

Chemistry

The Chemistry Department may submit a second proposal for additional tenure line or CNTT staffing in response to the proposed increase in the postbaccalaureate program.

Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science intends to request a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Information Networks to replace a retired member of the department. This position fulfills an essential role in covering the core topics of information, network theory, and those topics that underpin the modern Internet. Information Networks is the area central to understanding the structure, algorithms, and process of social networking, and other on-line media representations. Information Networking plays a critical role in many interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary topics, including mathematics, bioinformatics, economics, psychology, and linguistics. This position will also help the computer science department offer a number of courses for our growing computer science student population, including discrete math, and a senior conference.

Computer Science

The Department of Computer Science intends to request a continuing non-tenure track position for designing, coordinating and teaching the introductory laboratory course. This position would require a Masters or Ph.D. in computer science.

English

The Department of English intends to request a tenure-track Assistant Professor to replace a department member who left in the summer of 2009. This position would be for a specialist in contemporary American literatures in transnational contexts. In literary studies national borders have always been permeable. The resulting tendencies toward

transposition and cross-fertilization are particularly evident in such American literatures as African-American, Latino/Latina-American, and Asian-American. This cross-cultural frame of reference means that the position would likely strengthen the English Department's ties with other departments of language and literature and with the several nodes of ethnic studies in the bi-college academic community.

French

The French department hereby indicates its intention to request that the non-tenure track position currently devoted to coordinating and teaching the intensive language track and the advanced 200-level language course be converted to a Continuing Non-Tenure track position. While we will present a more detailed rationale in the formal request, we note that the best pedagogical practice to ensure effective learning involves the presence of a colleague with a longer-term contract than the normal NTT faculty and opportunities for advancement. This CNTT faculty member will thereby invest more effectively in her students as well as in departmental governance and College committees. If, as we hope, this request is granted, French would be able to return to the optimal scenario of two CNTT and four TT faculty to man our very well-subscribed academic program.

Geology

The Geology Department requests permission to search for a tenure-track position during academic year 2010-2011 in the broad field of geochemistry/mineralogy/petrology. The individual should have research interests in a field that complements at least one other faculty member (thus providing depth necessary for productive collaborative research); and one who could add substantially to one or more of the following curricular areas of the department: geochemistry, biogeochemistry, geodynamics, environmental geology, or Earth system science. This request is for a replacement position (keeping the number of tenure-track faculty in the Geology Department to four members) - not an additional faculty line. The request for this position is based on: 1)The need to maintain expertise in the main fields of geology in order to present a comprehensive undergraduate major in geology in addition to our broad offerings to the college's liberal arts curriculum. This need is particularly important in the case of the Geology Department, as there is no counterpart department or equivalent department in the tri-college consortium that offers a curriculum designed to educate students on the linkages among Earth system components in an environmental context. 2)The geology Department's longstanding commitment to the Environmental Sciences Concentration, which requires that we have the staffing and field coverage to permit that concentration. 3)Replacement of the fourth full-time, tenure-track faculty position in Geology will, in most cases, allow the Department to maintain the current breadth of course offerings without additional staffing or faculty replacements during sabbatical leaves.

Italian

The Italian Department indicates its intention to request a CNTT position devoted to coordinating and teaching Italian first and second year language, the intensive language

track, and the advanced 200-level language course. I will present a more detailed rationale in the formal request in November. We would also be looking for someone interested, and qualified to participate, in technological endeavors. The position would require a Ph. D in linguistics and/or Italian Studies/ and/or Italian for foreign students and/or Italian literature with a strong interest --and scholarly record-- of the teaching and coordination of the language.

Mathematics

The Department of Mathematics intends to request a tenure-track position in mathematics to replace a member of the department, who will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. The research area of the new tenure-track faculty member will complement the research areas of the current tenure-track faculty in our department, it is expected that the new tenure-track faculty member be able to teach core courses required for the Mathematics major and be willing to supervise senior research projects.

Peace and Conflict Studies

Peace and Conflict Studies requests authorization to search for a full-time, tenure track Assistant Professor with a specialization in the Middle East during the 2010-11 academic year. This position would meet important needs in the two-college's small but successful Peace and Conflict Studies program and as an integral part of the Middle East Studies Concentration which has no tenure track social scientist who specializes in this region. The proposal is rooted in the need to staff the PACS program's core courses each year, to maintain the range of courses students in the program are offered, to provide direction for the program, and to sustain the College's social science offerings the contemporary Middle East and the proposed Middle East Studies concentration. The appointment we are requesting is for a social scientist and is not meant to be a substitute for humanities, language courses in Middle East Studies. The emphasis here is on the Peace and Conflict Studies and the Middle East because there are both student interest and academic reasons for the College to offer courses in these areas. While we have made great strides in both concentrations in the past three years, this proposal seeks to make these offerings a more permanent part of our curriculum. Consequently, the opportunity to use PACS and the Middle East commitments in a complementary manner to fill a longer term need in the area of the social sciences is an appealing and central aspect of this proposal.

Physics

The senior Administration, CAP, the Physics Department, the Chemistry Department, and the Biology Department are part of a discussion to determine whether the College should expand the postbaccalaureate premedical program from 75 to 85 students. CAP will have input from each of these parties and will have to consider many things in coming to a recommendation to the President. If the number of postbaccalaureate students increases, the College has agreed to also increase the academic instructional budget for the postbaccalaureate program to support this increase, making resources available for additional staffing. The Physics Department proposes that a current long-

term interim position be converted to a tenure-track position. The field of research would be one that complements the current research in the Haverford and Bryn Mawr College Physics Departments and could involve interdisciplinary research with faculty members in Geology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Computer Science, and/or Biology at Bryn Mawr. The proposal to convert the interim position into a tenure line position and not a CNTT position comes from the feeling that we would like (a) to distribute the teaching of the postbaccalaureate students among the faculty and (b) we feel that it is healthier to have teacher-scholars involved in instruction at all levels.