

To: Biochemistry and Chemistry Faculty

From: Matt Platz

RE: Our Retreat

Dear Colleagues:

It is clear that many of us are unable to attend a retreat on December 13. Thus, we have rescheduled the event for January 17, 2009 at the Fawcett Center from 8:30 until noon. I hope most of us can attend.

I received other important feedback from the faculty. First, many of the Chemistry faculty are only now considering the merger question and have many questions. Many feel that the first item on the agenda should be a discussion of the pros and cons of a merger. I agree.

You have also told me that you don't want to sit through a lot of presentations. Instead you want to socialize and interact with faculty from the "other" department to get to know each other as we discuss the key issues. To minimize the need for presentations we shall provide you with the key facts and policies of both departments in written form in advance of the retreat. The key concerns revolve around

- Teaching load policies
- Will biochemistry faculty be expected to teach general chemistry courses?
- Will chemistry faculty be expected to teach biology courses?
- Salary structure
- TA policies
- The future of OSBP
- Future faculty hiring thrusts in a merged department
- Promotion and tenure standards
- Administrative structure of a merged department
- The name of the merged department
- Merger process and time frame
- Future investment in shared instrumentation
- Will some faculty move their labs, the status of the new building
- Curricular and research opportunities resulting from a merger

Feel free to e-mail other issues to be discussed at the retreat and the specific written information you would like in advance of the retreat.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Matt Platz

Distinguished University Professor

Interim Dean, Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences