

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

Report of Faculty Committee to make proposals for space allocations and use in Genetics Building

1. It is expected that within the near future, the Veterinary Science Department, presently accommodated on the 2nd floor of the Genetics Building will be assigned to other quarters. The space vacated by that department has been assigned to the Genetics Department. This committee was appointed by the Genetics faculty to study the overall situation, and to make proposals, in regard to space allocations and use of all space in the Genetics Building when this additional space becomes available.
2. The committee recognizes that in its present quarters, the Genetics Department has been cramped for space to an extreme degree. It believes that when the space on the 2nd floor now occupied by the Veterinary Science Department is allocated to the Genetics Department considerable relief should result, even if not to the extent desired by the staff.
3. In recent years, the scope and variety of the research programs carried on in the Genetics Department has expanded to an extraordinary degree and has resulted in increasing demands for space and facilities. Along with this expansion, the number of graduate students has also increased and has been another major factor contributing to the present seriously overcrowded situation.

4. The increase in the teaching program in Genetics at the undergraduate level has created further difficulties in respect to facilities and space. When this program overtaxed the facilities in the Genetics Building, provision was made for it in another temporary building, T17.

While the committee believes that the undergraduate teaching program would be more effective and provide a more desirable situation if it could be housed in the Genetics Building, it can see no feasible way of accomplishing this in the near future. Nevertheless the committee urges that this should be an ultimate objective of the Genetics Department.

5. In developing the proposals contained in this report, the Committee has made strenuous efforts to consider, and assess, the varying needs of the several staff members. Following its first consideration of the overall problem, it presented on Oct. 29th two alternate and tentative proposals for the staff's consideration. In the light of the collective discussion of these at that time, and as a result of subsequent conferences with individual staff members, the committee now presents proposals which it believes will provide the most widely acceptable plan for the utilization of space in the Genetics Building.

6. Though it has not been feasible to provide for the undergraduate teaching program in the Genetics Building at this time, the committee shares the general opinion prevailing among the staff that a step in this direction should be taken by providing research laboratory facilities in Room 212 for Dr. J. F. Crow and his graduate students.

7. The committee believes that if the Department supports a program in a major degree it should make every effort to provide at least a minimum of facilities for it, unless these needs can be satisfied in other directions. As with many departments of the College of Agriculture, the Department of Genetics participates in several programs that are interdepartmental in nature. For varying reasons, such programs sometimes encounter added difficulties when space is at a premium.

8. Among others, the potato research program was established on a co-operative basis between the Genetics Department and two other departments. Its budget facilities are largely in the Genetics Department, but it has used work space and facilities in the basement of the Horticulture Building. Other recent developments in that building promise to seriously reduce, if not eliminate, the facilities until recently available in that building to the potato program. In view of its earlier investment in needed facilities in the Horticulture Building, the Committee urges the leadership of the potato project to make every effort through the appropriate administrative channels, to restore, or otherwise provide facilities adequate for its minimum needs. It does not appear feasible at this time to provide certain of these in the Genetics Building, though it is recommended that general laboratory facilities in temporary building T17C be shared by the undergraduate teaching program and the potato project. This appears to be an entirely feasible procedure.

If and when a potato cytologist is re-appointed in the Genetics Department it is recommended that he be housed in the general cytological facilities suggested for rooms 101A, 102, 103.

9. While there is not complete agreement among staff members in respect to the needs for a general laboratory, majority opinion appears to favor such a development. Accordingly, Room 211 is proposed for this purpose, to be available to the whole department without specific assignment. Such a laboratory in conjunction with R208A would also serve the needs of the sweet clover project and release space in the laboratory in R7 now used by this program. Since R211 is a large room it should also be feasible to locate some student desks in it, or otherwise to provide work space for occasional needs.

Room 208A would require some slight alteration to fit it for the purpose previously mentioned. In addition this room could be used for computing purposes.

10. In respect to general student desk space, it is proposed that rooms 213, 213A be used for this purpose. It may be advisable to remove the temporary type partition between these two rooms.

11. All proposed uses and allocations of space are indicated in the tabulation which is a part of this report. Several of the proposals have received no special comment, but the committee believes they are in accord with general departmental desires in effecting ^{consolidation} ~~consideration~~ of the several lines of research effort as well as in providing maximum use of all the space in the most efficient manner. In order to provide some degree of flexibility

for the future, it is proposed that for the present room 206 remain on an unassigned basis.

12. The committee recommends that in respect to unassigned space in the Genetics Building, the determination for utilization of such space be made on an annual basis by a departmental committee but subject to faculty approval.
13. The committee recommends that facilities now available to the Genetics Department in the Old Enzyme Laboratory be retained.

The committee recognizes that these proposals do not provide each and every member of the department with all the space he would desire for his work and his students. The staff will acknowledge that with so many lines of specialized endeavor, and with space at such a premium, it would not be possible to completely satisfy the maximum demands that prevail. The committee hopes that the proposals it presents for consideration will receive general acceptance, recognizing that with a spirit of good will and mutuality of interests in promoting the welfare of the whole department, they do provide a substantial measure of relief for the future.

We are all keenly aware that space and facilities have been, and are now, a major problem in the whole institution. It is probable that this situation will prevail for quite sometime in the years ahead. It is natural that this should be so in an institution such as the University of Wisconsin that has such a broad base of educational and research endeavor. With institutions, as with organisms, growth is a concomitant of vitality. As members of the Department of Genetics, collectively and individually, we should reassess periodically our several present lines of endeavor, carefully appraise

proposed new efforts and restrict if necessary, the number of graduate students that we accept. If we do this, we shall perhaps avoid some of the pressures and obligations that cannot be met with a substantial measure of satisfaction to ourselves, to the department and to the institution as a whole. To do this, need not necessarily mean that we cease to grow. Indeed it may well result in an increased vitality and in a strengthening of the department's total program.