

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

June 2, 1978

Dear Mert:

Bemfield

Perhpas you have already heard that there is a possibility that I shall become the chairman of biology starting next fall. I say that it is a possibility because my taking the job will be contingent on whether or not the administration is willing to accept certain stipulations. I am writing to you, since they deal rather directly with the human biology program. The two stipulations basically are:

1. That a new building be built and that we have some new positions available, including several senior positions.
2. That the department have input into the human biology program, including collaboration adn teaching responsibilities in the program.

The latter is based on my firm conviction that students learning about humans must deal with them in the far greater context of all of biology. Our world is a god damn mess in part because we humans do not understand adequately our niche in the totality of ecology, and it is disastrous to ignore those relationships in a college education. So much for the philosophical side of the matter. The other side of the matter is that this is perhaps a way for the department to obtain more positions, as well as for your program to have more stable faculty relationships, and improve the basic biological training, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

I would invisage such a building to house both laboratory facilities for faculty, perhaps for students, as well as housing the administrative aspects of human biology.

Let me say that I am not trying to "take" over the human biology program, but only to bring our department into closer relationship with it. In discussions with the faculty concerning my becoming chairman, I believe that all of the faculty were in agreement with a committment to closer ties under the concepts stated above.

This is a very short-version of what I am thinking...it is particularly short since I have to go to Atlanta tomorrow for 4 days. But I did want you to know what was potentially happening in an area of your direct concern. If the administration is not willing to agree to the above, then I will not become chairman.

I'll call you when I get back next week.

Best wishes,

[R Schimke]