

MEMORANDUM

28 August 1978

TO: Dr. Shaak

FROM: J.C.D.

RE: HERBARIUM/MUSEUM

It appears that there is considerable misunderstanding in the minds of our curators concerning the possibility that the Herbarium may be physically and administratively transferred to the Museum. Much of this concern seems to be based upon the conditions under which we would entertain such transfer.

First let me make it plain that the objective of IFAS and the Museum is to see the Herbarium become a valuable and productive research instrument. The Committee which has been appointed is expected to make recommendations as to how the University can accomplish this end.

Second, it is clear that there are a series of conditions that must be satisfied before I would be willing for the Museum to accept responsibility for management of the Herbarium, if indeed the Committee so recommends.

1. Budget: An adequate budget must be established for support of the Herbarium in order that it not be a drain on our already inadequate funding.
2. Space: Arrangement for space to house the Herbarium must be planned in such a way as to allow growth and use of the plant collections without penalty to growth and use of our animal collections.
3. Curatorial responsibility: The curator in charge must be a member of our faculty, responsible to the Museum administration for the care and use of the collection.

It seems to me that if these conditions are satisfied and if the Museum is asked to add the plant collections to those for which we already bear responsibility it would be very difficult for us to deny such a request.

These are the conditions agreed to by IFAS and the Museum in 1973. Failure to satisfy "3" (above) provided the only barrier at that time. Maybe it can be surmounted now.

-2- Dr. Sheak
28 August 1978

The space problem can be solved if money is available to "compact" one or more of our animal collections and the Herbarium itself. As for funding, this is a problem that must be solved by others - not on a temporary but continuing basis. I will insist that it must be.

My personal feeling is that we should welcome the opportunity to have the plant collection and its research and service activities be a part of this Museum. I believe we can provide the environment and leadership under which it can flourish. I see no philosophical barrier to such a move. Rather, I see a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our own programs and those of the Herbarium. I cannot help but believe that if each of you will examine the conditions spelled out above you will agree and look forward to having botanists and Botany in our fold.

To quell specific concerns which I have heard expressed, Liz Wing will not be moved downstairs. Vertebrate paleontology won't be moved away from its auxiliary spaces. Bruce will not be sharing an office with Dave. We will not throw out the invertebrate fossil collection. (But I see little reason to try to build an insignificant and inactive collection into a respectable and useful one in the circumstances existing at the University of Florida via a vis those at FSU). Our limited supply of technicians will not be spread out to help care for the plant collection. They have more than they can say grace over now - and I know it.

If I have failed to respond to real concerns of which I am ignorant I will be happy to do so when I am made aware of them. Perhaps there is some major element I have overlooked, one that would dictate that the Committee be advised to disband before they ever meet - even to consider transfer of administrative responsibility. If so now is the time to make me aware of such objection(s).

Hearing none I shall await the study and recommendations of the Committee. When it has completed its assignment there will be ample time for us to examine the several alternatives which may present themselves. Rest assured that I will see the counsel of yourself and the faculty before a final decision is made.

JCD/s