

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

March 16, 1981

Dr. Charles Woods  
Chairman, Department of  
Natural Sciences  
The Florida State Museum  
268 MUS  
CAMPUS

Dear Charles:

I have had time to reflect over the current obstacles to the transfer of the Herbarium to the Museum and to talk to Al Wood about the whole matter. My thoughts are as follows.

1. It is not feasible to transfer the three career service positions from the IFAS budget function to the E & G budget function. The State Department of Administration (DOA) takes a very dim view of transferring salaried positions from one major function to another. When we transferred Microbiology back to IFAS and Biochemistry back to the Health Center we finally had to get Cabinet approval. I have no desire to go through this process for three career service positions. Hence you should drop your request to IFAS for the transfer of these career service positions.

2. Al Wood is perfectly willing to write a statement to the Director of the Museum that pledges continued support of the Herbarium through the dedication of these three career service positions to the Herbarium. IFAS will continue to pay these salaries. Al cannot guarantee that these positions will forever be dedicated to the Herbarium. He does not have that authority any more than I have the authority to guarantee to you that there will always be a Museum. We all live and work in a state of contingency, which contingencies are measured over a broad spectrum ranging from probable to improbable. In my judgment, the withdrawal by IFAS of the three positions dedicated to the Museum is at the far range of the spectrum of contingency - the improbable end of that range.

3. I believe so because IFAS needs the Herbarium, and what it needs it is willing to support. Witness the long term support by IFAS of three faculty positions in Botany. IFAS is not interested in abandoning the Herbarium, and to think otherwise is a fundamental error of judgment. Al Wood not only wants and plans to support these three positions as dedicated to the Herbarium; he plans to conduct an annual review of IFAS activities in the Herbarium. He plans to be part of those activities. The transfer of the Herbarium to the Museum is not a signal that the Herbarium's links with IFAS are to be cut off and that the Herbarium is to take an entirely new direction and abandon its service role. Indeed, to put it bluntly, those three career service positions are part of IFAS' insurance policy that its service needs will continue to be met. If the leadership of the Museum thinks otherwise, it is making a serious

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mistake. If the Museum attempts to abandon IFAS' interest and turn the Herbarium inward into a totally research-oriented activity, then, and only then, will IFAS withdraw its positions. And if, under these circumstances, it does withdraw these positions, the Museum will also have lost the support of the Office of Academic Affairs.

Hence, I urge you to work with Al Wood in drawing up an acceptable statement of commitment about dedicating these three career service positions to the Herbarium. Let's jump over this obstacle and consummate the transfer. I grow impatient with these Byzantine negotiations.

Best regards,



Robert A. Bryan  
Vice President

RAB/sm

cc: Dr. Wayne King ✓  
Dr. Graig Shaak  
Dr. Al Wood