



January 20, 2006

Dear Professor Jamieson,

As representatives of the graduate student body in the Macromolecular Science and Engineering Department, we feel that it is our duty to champion both the welfare and common interests of the group as a whole. In this manner, then, upon consideration of ways in which the working environment in Kent Hale Smith can be improved upon, we would like to suggest the following:

- 1) That regularly used supplies such as ice, dry ice, and liquid nitrogen be made available in common areas accessible to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Rationale: Currently such items are available to all, but in group-specific laboratories not universally accessible. Productivity would increase with these things more readily available (e.g., on weekends).
- 2) That newer computers be purchased (or network access be made available) in the “departmental” X-ray and DSC labs in order to update the existing systems.
Rationale: In the case of the computer used for 2-D X-ray data analysis, for example, with data files as large as 10 and 20 MB and a computer that not only has such low memory that file storage is severely limited and data transfer is relegated to zip discs, a fairly obsolete medium, a system with USB interfaces and/or internet access would improve work efficiency.
- 3) That a dialogue between students and faculty be initiated so that clear guidelines concerning the fulfillment of departmental duties (both old and new) can be established and communication of their intended purpose be more clearly conveyed.
Rationale: Given that the nature of the graduate student body changes from year to year, it has been our observation over the past few semesters that the established departmental duties are (a) insufficient for the number of graduate students employed by the department (i.e., there are too few to choose from for all students to meet the currently required three), (b) not broad enough in scope to appeal to all of the personality types represented in the student body, and (c) of nebulously stated intent resulting in some students taking the “requirement” lightly.

We would like to reiterate that these are only suggestions. We sincerely believe, however, that grad student life in the department would be greatly enhanced by some if not all of these changes.

We appreciate your time and consideration and would be happy to provide you with further supporting information if need be.

Respectfully yours,

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