Q. What is the Lamont Research Professor initiative?
A: It is an initiative designed to make the current Doherty positions comparable to regular faculty positions at Columbia. This initiative was approved by the Board of Trustees on June 30, 2009, and the title “Lamont Research Professor” now officially exists.

Q. When will this be implemented?
A: It depends on how soon we can move past administrative and technical hurdles! A realistic timeline is the summer or fall of 2010.

Q. Will it be implemented at the same time for everyone?
A: Yes. But we expect the transition period to last 2-3 years, depending on the duration of the Doherty staff’s current external grants.

Q. What sort of institutional support will one get?
A: It will be the same for all, unlike the current Doherty positions. A starting number (rough estimate) could be 3.5 months out of 9.0 during the transition period. After the transition we hope to increase it to 4.5 months out of 9.0.

Q. Is the Lamont Research Professor a tenured position?
A: No, it is not. They will be 5-year renewable appointments.

Q. How is this different from current Doherty positions?
A: In several ways:
• LRP positions will be 9 month positions (like faculty) instead of 12 months (current Doherty positions); therefore have the option of taking summers off
• LRP positions will have a provision for sabbatical (unlike Doherty positions)
• LRP positions will have provisions for child care leave (unlike Doherty positions)