

NATURAL SCIENCES CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Chemistry 134

Attendees: Peter Doucette, Ana Tontcheva, Soshanna Potter, Jean Shankweiler, Amy Grant, Mohamad Abbani, Miguel Jimenez, Tom Stewart, Andrey Balakin, Janina Moretti, Ryan Turner, Rob Shibao.

Agenda

1. Unit Adjustment to chemistry courses

- Jean will prepare a table for chemistry with a breakdown of lecture + lab + study hours, credit hours + load for the classes as currently configured and potential changes.
- Need justification for Chemistry 21A/B to increase lab by one hour Ana volunteered to prepare that document.

2. Hiring

- Part-time hiring is currently being announced. The opening will close on December 4. Pete and Amy volunteered to help with the hiring. We will meet to review applications before the end of the semester and interview the first week in January.
- Jean will send questions from previous part-time interviews to Pete and Amy for review.
- Full-time positions will be announced by the beginning of December. It should close to the beginning of January, final interview will be April 21st.
- Mohamad asked if this could be kept open longer, worried about people applying over the holidays.

3. Offices

- Bob and Chas will need to move out of office.
- Move faculty workroom for part-time offices, there was some discussion of using conference room. Some discussion of who is permitted to have access to the room and to use the computers.

4. Fall 2015 Schedule

- Discussed number of Chemistry 7 to offer for fall, this year there were two 7A and two 7B. Adding Chemistry 7A in the summer so three chemistry 7A can feed into 7B in spring. The consensus of the discussion was to not add another, since we are adding in the summer and we don't want to add too many.

5. Chemistry 4 success

- A review of success rates for the HSI-STEM grant revealed a big decrease in Chem 4 student success for the last year, almost 20% drop.
- The grant is paying for MESA workshops and tutoring sessions.

- Faculty indicated the AEW facilitators are not meeting with faculty, especially the full-time faculty.
- Faculty also indicated a larger number of students are unprepared.
- Course numbering is confusing. Are students in the wrong course, for instance taking Chem 4 to prepare for nursing, thinking Chem 4 is the lowest number and thus the entry level class.
- Some suggestions to improve student success in chem 4 – to be discussed further:
 - Set department standards, similar to Santa Monica College. Meet again to discuss this.
 - Advertise MESA to students
 - Advertised office hours collectively.
 - Chemistry 4 tutoring in Chemistry 108 (funded by grant).