

Notes for Earth Sciences Department Meeting, October 24, 2013

1. SLO: Assessment will occur in Spring 2014 semester. Proposal to include a map for the Scientific Method assessment in order to address reading comprehension issues. We want to be certain that we are assessing the student's understanding of the steps of the scientific method and not just their reading comprehension of an article about science. We propose to restrict questions to content only in order to not assess reading comprehension. Chuck Herzig will provide a map for the next Department meeting in November as an example for a possible SLO assessment. Faculty would like to have a combination of reading and map-reading for the assessment in Spring 2014.

2. Summer Geology 2014

Academic Senate wants departments to add sections, so why are there no labs in the summer sessions? Sara filed a formal request for section of Geology 3 for Summer 2014. Matt will teaching Geography 20 Summer Field Class to Yosemite during the first session of Summer 2014.

3. The field classes (Geology 34, 36...) feel a little too rushed to complete in 8 weeks as expressed by Joe, so he was proposing extending the classes to 10 or 16 weeks. The other two instructors who teach the field classes, Chuck and Sara, both indicated that they are comfortable at 8 weeks.

Joe also stated that the budget for the vans is getting tight, so it is very important to reserve the school vans with the Athletics Department well in advance.

4. Plan Builder: Suggestions were made to add to Plan builder 2014-2015 budget new chairs and Sara requested ROV's for Oceanography. Both of these items were added to Plan Builder 2014-2015 by Chuck.

5. Senate Report. Final Grades are due December 20th. VP Arce wants Divisions to add more sections because we did not add enough sections. It was suggested to add Geology 3 to Spring Semester – it already exists – Chuck is teaching the class. We also want to add Oceanography sections and whatever Geography would like to add.

6. Jewel Tunnel. There will be an Open House Wholesale event on November 23rd. The Location is in Irwindale.

7. Others. Room NATS 206 is filthy. Would like to make an Official request for cleaning to Custodial Services. A High School teacher at the Marine Academy in Lawndale would like to align his classes with El Camino College for college credit. This request is via an e-mail to Dean Shankweiler. There is no Earth Sciences Department support for this action. We will leave them alone to pursue their own academic agenda. Joe passed out a handout highlighting his analysis of the success that his students achieve through flashcards.

The meeting began at 1:05 pm and adjourned at 1:50 pm on October 24, 2013 in Room NATS 205.