

Earth Science Department Meeting

Spring Flex Day

February 6, 2013

Attendance

Robin Bouse, Changwoo Cha, Matt Ebner, Sara Di Fiori, Julienne Gard, Chuck Herzig, Joe Holliday, Jim Noyes

Scholarship Funds

Approximately \$2,000 allotted to geography was discovered by the Foundation. J. Holliday and M. Ebner believe it may be funding that was misplaced decades ago. M. Ebner will contact Katie Gleason to organize the candidate selection process and request that these funds be used for the spring 2013 Geography Merit awardee. M. Ebner and J. Gard agree they would like to have final input on selecting the best award candidate, as is done for geology's Wally Ford scholarship.

Mineral Show

The annual show is occurring in early April and will need student volunteers. Geology majors and Science Club members will be recruited.

Earth Science Majors Workshop

Two tentative meetings are scheduled for spring 2013 semester. Chuck will arrange for CSULB graduate student, Becca, to discuss her transition from community college to the 4-year university to the oil industry for one workshop. S. Di Fiori will conduct a virtual demonstration centered on mapping in the field for a second workshop.

Instructional Equipment Funding and Planning

The Department prioritized and edited the equipment that was entered into the Plan:

- The 3 Garmin GPS receivers were prioritized as 'A' (needed now). The Department all agreed that a set of 23 new models should be purchased, though, because the current set is already ten years old and matching this old model is difficult. The new GPS units should cost approximately \$150 apiece.
- The Infrared thermometers can quite easily be purchased with department budget so that meteorology and geology can have them by next fall. Thus, they were designated as 'C' (least needed) and may ultimately be removed from the Plan.
- Geology models for the display case were prioritized as 'A' (needed now). Plant fossils are one desired purchase cited by geologists. Further, the initial amount of \$1,000 requested in the Plan will be increased to \$2,000.
- The wall maps were prioritized as 'B' (moderately needed). J. Gard expressed interest in purchasing a topographic relief/political map for NS-219, much like the world map hanging on the east wall in NS-205.
- The illuminated globe was prioritized as 'C'.

J. Gard will submit these priorities to J. Shankweiler today and will also update the Plan to reflect the changes mentioned above.

Other equipment needs were mentioned for future requests – a Scanning Electron Microscope and a plotter.

Kiosk

The hallway kiosk is inaccessible without the password. Cha reported that J. Shankweiler has repair funds that we could use to have the kiosk company repair it. However, C. Herzig volunteered to first contact Don Treat and IT for help. One concern was that either method would clear the kiosk's data. Faculty consented that the risk is worth being able to access the machine and that re-building its content would be preferable.

Spring 2013 Department Meetings

The following dates were proposed: Thursday February 28, Thursday March 28, Tuesday April 30, and Tuesday May 14. These dates will be finalized after aligning them with J. Shankweiler's schedule.

SLOs

We identified which SLO reports were due at the beginning of the semester (Geog 9; Geol 2, 4, & 32) and which SLOs are to be assessed this semester (Geol 30). The report for Geol 9 has already been circulated and submitted.

J. Noyes provided some of the data for the "basic knowledge" PLO and a draft of the PLO report. We discussed "Implications and Future Directions" section of the report. J. Noyes will finish the draft and circulate it before submitting it in CurricUNET.

Faculty agreed to the following two policies in when assessing this SLO in the future:

- 1) The same post-assessment and a standardized rubric will be used by all faculty for consistency.
- 2) The post-assessment should be integrated into the final exam, with faculty determining the value of each question on their own.

The cumulative data report prepared by J. Noyes also showed the grade distribution for the entire department. C. Herzig noted that the final semester grades do not follow a normal distribution and recommended we explore this at a future meeting. Some of the potential bias to this grade reporting was mentioned, but faculty were open to the idea of discussing the issue at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm.

Minutes submitted by J. Gard