

Earth Sciences Dept. Meeting Minutes for Thursday, September 12, 2013.

*Present:* Jean Shankweiler, Matt Ebiner, Sara Di Fiori, Julienne Gard, Chuck Herzig, Joe Holliday, Jim Noyes, Patricia Neumann, Robin Bouse, Changwoo Cha, Leonard Clark (conference call)

1. Technician Report: none

2. Safety:

Joe expressed concern over the lack of non-skid surfaces outside doors. Julienne will bring it up in Safety Committee. Patti asked if the elevators are working. The consensus from the group is that they sometimes are not working.

3.SLO's:

Jim prepared 2014 goals for "Nature of Science" SLO assessment, and described possible optional changes. He has emailed individual assessments to the department. It is suggested that we address a sub-set of students. Questions raised to the group by Jim include:

Should we all do the same thing?

Should we examine total scores on assessments, or just focus on performance on individual questions/concepts?

Robin asked if too many changes would have us comparing apples and oranges, as without using an assessment more than once, a pattern cannot emerge from the data. Sara shared this concern. Jim responded that he sees room for improvement. Patti suggested we allow room for reflection. Leo pointed out that Compton has a different timeline. Jean suggested he conform to Compton Center which is filing different reports. Jim listed tasks for addressing elements of science, and noted that grade distributions differ across courses. Reading comprehensions was discussed by Jim and Chuck, as possibly the focus of our assessment. Chuck suggested using diagrams to address more modalities of learning, and Jim requested an example, drafted by Chuck for the department. Chuck suggested we restrict our focus to science, not English. Jim requested an example.

4. Curriculum:

Jean informed the group that Geology 30 and Geology 15 need changes, and that Geography 6,7,8 are under review. She also pointed out that all "50"s are inactivated. Sara requested help with geology 30 and 15. Sara asked if inactivated classes are easy to reactivate later and Jean affirmed that they are.

5. Program Review:

Julienne earned a pat on the back for turning in the first submission!

6. Mentoring New Faculty:

Joe suggested splitting the two newbies among the faculty. He said will begin to CC the department when emailing them. Jim is here Friday mornings and bumps into them.

7. Library Reserve Requests:

Sara is the contact person for requesting books to be put on reserve in the library. Jean said that reserve books can be purchased with STEM \$.

8. STEM \$:

There are two conferences coming up that are described in an email from Teresa Palos. There is money to send interested parties.

9. Old student catalogs:

Jim has saved all of his catalogs and schedules of classes, and pointed out that they are a record of former (larger) course offerings. The department decided to keep a set for future reference.

10. Earthquake drill meeting area:

The classes must group on the west side of the building. This will make it easier for Cha to account for everybody.

11. Other:

Jean announced that Chuck and Julienne are on the strategic initiative team.

Jean reminded Chuck that that we need the plan.

Sara described the first Senate report (Information Survey of students).

Upcoming majors' workshops were discussed (jobs, counseling, and picking a school).

Sara volunteered to attend the Safety training meeting on behalf of the department.

Minutes submitted by Sara Di Fiori

