

Earth Science Department Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2014

1:00PM-1:50PM

NATS 205

Attendees: Robin Bouse, Changwoo Cha, Sara Di Fiori, Rebecca Donegan, Matt Ebner, Julienne Gard, Chuck Herzig, Joe Holliday, Patricia Neumann, Jim Noyes, Jean Shankweiler

1) SLOs

- a) The Copy Center was late printing the assessment, so most instructors administered the Scientific Method SLO in the 3rd week of term.
- b) Chuck will make an answer key.
- c) The written analysis of results should report total scores, identify the questions that most confused students, and speculate why those questions might have been difficult for them.
- d) Jim reported his success using clickers. Clickers automatically analyze student input, whereas scantrons can only give error analysis.
- e) Sara requested a clicker demonstration during a department meeting later in the semester.

2) DVD PLAYERS

- a) Joe and other instructors say sometimes the DVD player in NATS 206 does not work, the Internet goes down, and Adobe flash needs updating.
- b) Jean encouraged the department not to request a new DVD player because the department is scheduled to receive new computers mid-semester.
- c) Cha will contact ITS to see if they have any spare used players we can put in NATS 206 until the new computers arrive.

3) LAB SECTIONS and SCHEDULING

- a) Joe said that there used to be six sections of Geology 3 lab offered per year and he wants to bring them back. However, Jean said they were not filling and thinks more lectures should be offered instead.
- b) When it was suggested that geography offer 3 lab sections (instead of the current 2) per year to address the high student demand, Matt reminded us that it is difficult to obtain part-time instructors to teach geography lab because of lower pay.

- c) Jean added a Geology 1 and Geology 3 course to the Fall 2014 schedule. She added one of each for Summer 2014 as well.
- d) Geology is having a hard time finding part-time instructors and will eventually have to advertise and interview again.

4) TEXTBOOK PROBLEMS

- a) Some courses, particularly geology, were short on textbooks for the first two weeks of term. The bookstore either did not order enough or storms on the East coast caused the delay.
- b) Solutions for the future are to order more texts than you need, check with Steven in the bookstore right before classes begin, or instruct the students to purchase texts online in the case of textbook shortage.

5) SENATE

- a) Sara reported that there was little new information from the first Senate meeting.
- b) She mentioned there is discussion about offering bachelor's degrees at community colleges in the future. Jean clarified that the bachelor's degrees would be for specific majors only, particularly those that are not as reliably offered at all 4-year universities.

6) OTHER

- a) Jean encouraged participation in STEM Week, which will happen in April. Two or three guest speakers, a Friday open house, and club activities (e.g. cornhole trebuchet) will be scheduled. She suggested Science Club participate one day.
- b) Joe said there are only 3 geology student submissions for the spring scholarship, but there are 4 awards available. Sara requested that all full-time faculty be consulted in the selection process. Joe agreed with her.
- c) Joe asked that the first instructor in the building unlock the doors in the morning.

Minutes taken by Julienne Gard