

Earth Science Department Meeting
Natural Sciences Division
September 18, 2014

Present: Robin Bouse, Cha Chang, Sara Di Fiori, Julienne Gard, Chuck Herzig, Joe Holliday, Patricia Neumann, Jim Noyes

Textbook

The wrong lab manual was ordered for geology 3 because it was done by the division office for a part-time instructor. (Chuck Herzig's lab manual was ordered instead of the regular one). In the future, full time faculty members will order books for all courses.

Sara Di Fiori recommended photocopying textbook requests.

Chuck Herzig recommended contacting Patrick Papetti directly to confirm textbook requests.

Geology Majors Workshop

Presenters for the geology majors workshop:

October 23 – Chuck Herzig (transferring to universities)

November 13 – Sara Di Fiori

December 4 – need a presenter

Eight Week Classes

We are trying to get approval to start eight-week classes 1 week later (or more). Advantages include better enrollment and being able to go on the field trip during spring break when it cannot conflict with other classes (only in spring semesters, of course). Joe Holliday argued a 16-week class could meet for part of a semester as long as the number of contact hours is sufficient. Sara Di Fiori is opposed to changing eight week classes to 16 week classes, and feels that it should not be imposed for all classes: individual instructors should make the determination for their own classes.

Tutors

We have a tutor, Daniel Chavez, for all of our courses.

Workers in the Learning Resource Center have been turning oceanography students away; they were not aware that he tutored oceanography.

Lab Sections in Spring

All the sections cut during the recession have been restored except for one geology lab section in the spring semester (which would bring the total up to 3 sections in the spring semester). Chuck Herzig will contact Dean Jean Shankweiler.

Environmental Science Major/Program/Course

High schools are pushing “environmental science” majors and classes, and many of our students are interested in taking such courses. Joe Holliday and Jim Noyes will develop one or more

classes.

Computer Issues

The DVD player in NATS 219 does not connect to the speakers, and the sound level cycles up and down.

SLOs

Our reports for SLOs assessed in spring 2014 have been submitted.

The “nature of science” SLO for geography 9 and geology 2 and 4 are to be assessed this semester. The “basic knowledge” SLO for geography 32 is to be assessed this semester.

In spring 2015, we will be assessing the “humans’ relationship with their environment” SLO. Once Jim Noyes has reviewed the division’s SLO reports, he will have the time to focus on proposing an assessment procedure and rubric for assessing the SLO.

Faculty agreed to meet at a different time to review SLO statistics and how to interpret them.

Senate Actions

Titles have been modified, in part to reflect the contributions of long-time part-time instructors.

Folder for Server

When computers are reimaged, instructors lose all the materials that they have stored on the machine. Thurman Brown will add a folder for classroom computers that can be accessed on any of our classroom computers.

Library Cards

Sara DiFiori asked faculty to review the cards in NATS 212B describing new earth science and geography books, and mark the ones they would like the library to purchase.

Submitted by Jim Noyes