

LIFE SCIENCES DEPARTMENT MEETING

May 27, 2010

Nats 123 1:00pm.

Attendees: Mike Stupy, Les Scharlin, Steve Leonelli, Nancy Freeman, Jean Shankweiler, Thuy Bui, Bryan Carey, Teresa Palos, Margaret Steinberg

SLO

J. Shankweiler asked for updates on the 2 SLO brown bag meetings held in May. N. Freeman described the idea they came up with for the Scientific Method SLO. The department members decided to collect a series of articles from a variety of sources. The Biology 10 articles will be fairly simple, say from Science News. Then, a series of maybe 8 questions will be developed to be used by all instructors at the course level. The questions would be graded as homework and they hope to see if the students can determine the hypothesis, the experimental design, the controls, the variables. After some discussion, they decided to have 2 assessments per semester, one early and one later. There was some discussion about using different types of articles. For instance, T. Palos wanted to know if biology majors classes could use an article from a journal that presented articles at a higher level than Science News. J. Shankweiler said she would find out from Jenny Simon. It was suggested that we offer this kind of assessment to the whole division. We all teach and use Scientific Method. Could it be a division SLO? Would we be able to use different articles, say biology and astronomy and still combine results if the questions were the same or very similar.

There was some discussion on how to include SLO information in the self-evaluation reports for faculty and also discussion about how many SLOs we need to have per class.

Spring 2010 Schedule

The tentative spring 2011 schedule was distributed. Instructors were asked to check schedules to see if they are the desired courses and times. Also, we discussed the zoology class, and if it is to be offered, then something else needs to be cut. Biotechnology 1 is offered in Fall, Biotechnology 2 and Biology 104 will be offered in Spring. These are offered as pilot classes using STEM grant funding and won't affect our ability to offer other sections.

Adjourned at 1:50 pm