




Memorandum

To: Curriculum Committee

Cc: Dr. John O. Chikwem, Dean School Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Ms. Catherine Rutledge, Registrar

From: Derrick J. Swinton, Ph.D. Associate Professor and Chair 

Subject: Review of the Chemistry Curriculum: Modification of Course Numbers

Date: 11/15/2011

Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Chemistry is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its curriculum. As a result, several proposals will be presented to the faculty for review and approval. The most recent proposal presented was that of the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program, which was approved. The proposals presented herein are the following:

1. The department is presenting a proposal to update the course numbering Physical Chemistry I and Physical Chemistry I Laboratory. The current numbering for these courses are CHE 202 and CHE 272. We are proposing to change the course numberings to CHE 300 and CHE 382.

Justification: The CHE 202 is a course that is taken by students in their Junior Year (3rd year) and changing the course numbering will avoid confusion when scheduling and planning courses for our students.

2. The department is presenting a proposal to separate the lecture from the laboratory for the Freshmen and Sophomore level chemistry courses. Currently, the lectures are counted as four credits and the laboratory is counted as 0 credits. The lectures meet three days a week for 50 minutes and the laboratories meet one day a week for two hours and fifty minutes. We are proposing to count the lecture as 3 credits and the laboratory as 1 credit.

Justification: Over the years students have managed to pass the lab component of the course and not the lecture. As a result, they have to retake both the lecture and

lab. This practice has had a negative impact on the student's progression in completing their degree and places a financial burden on them. We would like to correct this by allowing the students who pass the lab component to only be required to take the lecture. Currently, other departments within the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Lincoln University follow this structure, whereby the lecture is counted as 3 credits and the lab counted as 1 credit. The structure is also in place at other institutions.

3. We are proposing to split the CHE 120 course into two separate courses. Currently the CHE 120 course, Chemistry for Health Science and Nursing course is a condensed course, combining elements of General Chemistry I and II, Organic Chemistry, and Biological Chemistry into one course. We would like to separate the course into two courses.

Justification: Students majoring in Health Sciences and Nursing need two semesters of Chemistry, thus necessitating the change.

The proposal has been approved at both the department and school levels. We are asking that the Curriculum Committee review our proposals favorably. Again the department of Chemistry is reviewing its curriculum so that it can maintain its high academic standards, align itself with departments at other institutions of similar size and scope, and provide its students with a solid foundation in science in effort in preparing them to achieve their goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.