

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Meeting Minutes 10-13-2005

I. The Faculty moved to adopt minutes from last meeting.

Core Curriculum

Dean Chikwem noted that English department already submitted a report on the core. School of NSM is behind.

Dean asked that individual departments go back and review what should be part of the core curriculum. Take a look at why so many students fail lower level Math courses.

Prof. Huq: Committee of school on curriculum?

Dean Chikwem wondered if that was a suggestion to come up with one?

Professor Shabazz: Math has been given a bad rap that is why students stay away from it.

Dean Chikwem agrees. Students not well advised on what courses they need.

Professor Shabazz: LU used to have good orientation on what is expected of the students (for example people like Du Bois, Einstein were brought in as speakers. That does not happen anymore

Dean Chikwem wondered if there should be a curriculum committee as suggested by Prof. Huq, with one person from each dept.? For each program, the suggestion should include what is expected of students graduating from LU. Core should address these issues and institutional values, LU being a significant HBCU. Chairs should look into that and let the Dean know.

GRE/MCAT Preparation

II. Dean Chikwem mentioned that there is some money to run GRE/MCAT programs. Development also has some money; there is therefore a need to recruit student for the program.

III. Dean thanked everybody for the record number of gifts donated during the poster session.

Middle States/Assessment/Retention

IV. Dean Chikwem referred to the report presented to the middle states by President Nelson

- Good to standardize the assessment criteria
- Retention is still a big issue. In-house retention, keeping students in the School of NSM is critical. Students not aware of tutoring services. Faculty should refer struggling student to take advantage of the services.

Professor Treisner: Students do not declare their majors seriously until past freshmen year. Thus no way of assessing retention levels for departments/schools seriously.

Prof. Shabazz: There is need for continual orientation probably through freshman and sophomore years. Orientation and continual advisement used to be done at LU some years ago. Too many off-campus people coming to distract students with parties etc. because of the perception that LU is a party school. Noisy dorms a distraction to serious students wanting to study.

Dean Chikwem: The faculty comes during Fall orientation week, but only gets 15 mins to address parents and students. Suggestion to make departmental advising be part of the activities of orientation week.

Prof. Tung : For retention make international students and indigenous students interact more, that should help the weaker students and improve retention.

Dean Chikwem: Everybody should try their best to help students write well.

Prof. Barimani: Differences among American and international students based mainly on hope. International students have more background, which gives them a lot of hope to succeed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.