



Meeting Minutes - Tuesday February 19, 2008

Start Time: 4:09 pm

Biology Department

Dr. Anna Hull Assist. Prof.

Dr. Susan Safford Associate Prof

Dr. David Royer, Chair

Nancy Smith, Instructor

Chemistry Department

Dr. Derrick Swinton (Dir) Assist. Prof

Dr. Amar S. Tung Assist. Prof

Dr. Takeyce K. Whittingham, Assistant Professor

Physics Department

Dr. Mazharul Huq (Chair) Prof

Dr. Helen Major Assistant Prof

Mathematics

Mr. Ali Barimani Assist. Prof

Dr. Moses Haimbodi Assist. Prof

Mr. Reginald Myrick Assist. Prof

Dr. Tim Niiler Lecturer

Dr. Ranjan Naik Instructor

Dr. Goro Nagase Professor

Mr. Fidelis Omuyeh Lecturer

Dr. Elizabeth Sieminski Lecturer

Dr. Laurellen Treisner (Chair) Assoc. Prof

Dr. Norman Beil Visiting Prof.

Excused Absences

Dr. Robert Langley (Chair) Prof. **(on sabbatical)**

Ms. Diane York

Dr. Karen Baskerville

Mr. Stanley Tsai

Dr. Lynn Roberts

Dr. R. Bhat

1) Welcome

2) Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2008

Spelling corrections on page 1 (Normal->Norman, Grimm->Grim, #9) Cummings-> Whittingham)

Accepted unanimously

3) School Journal - Dr. Royer

The school journal will be ready to be sent to the printer by the end of the week.

4) Undergraduate Research - Dr. Safford

Dr. Safford: It would be nice to have undergrad research institutionalized across all divisions. There would be a centralized place to apply for information, money, etc. for students to participate. Rather than waiting for the institution to do something, we wanted to explore setting up something in the Natural Sciences. This is not to exclude the other divisions, but there is a bit more money available nationally for the sciences. We would like to form a committee whose membership consists of one person from each department.

Dr. Haimbodi: In addition you are also looking for some way to raise money?

Dr. Safford: Yes. Also if we can start publishing some of the work of our students so that we have some data to show the administration, we might be able to convince them to fund students to go to meetings and the like to present their research. It would be similar to a faculty development fund.

Dr. Chikwem: Do you think you could work with Dr. Swinton and others to get this off the ground?

Dr. Safford: Yes, it would be optimal to get someone from all departments to participate once or twice.

Dr. Chikwem: What sort of money are you talking about?

Dr. Safford: At minimum, \$500 funding, the maximum would depend on departments' needs. This is why it's so important to include all the departments.

Dr. Swinton: We already submitted a proposal to NSF, but were shot down because of the lack of biology experience. So if we were to collaborate between departments in these areas, we could be more successful in obtaining money for such a purpose. Collaborating also can help junior faculty in that it is sometimes hard for such faculty to land grants.

Dr. Safford: Our bids for grants would be strengthened if there were some type of official institutional support for undergraduate research.

Mr. Barimani: How do you envision this working with the new science building?

Dr. Chikwem: The problem is that student research is research that is done on campus with faculty and that is published. Students do their summer research and it does not count for undergrad research.

Then they return to campus in the fall and there is no continuity. They complain that there is no structure in place here at Lincoln. There is nobody who collects information about what is being done or who to collaborate with.

Dr. Hull: Should we be working with the ORDPC? Perhaps this could be done collaboratively?

Dr. Chikwem: This cannot work because they have certain responsibilities that have not been fulfilled as of yet.

Dr. Hull: My other suggestion is to have as a requirement that students who participate write something up as a journal article, poster, or other publication.

Dr. Chikwem: Drs. Safford, Swinton, Major, and Huq: you get together and start discussing this.

Dr. Treisner: Could Drs. Niiler and Pathak contribute?

Dr. Niiler: I went to the University of Delaware which has quite a good undergrad research program. I can talk to some of my contacts there to find out how they got going way back when and see what they have to say about the issues they faced.

Dr. Haimbodi: We also have a lot of equipment which could be shared between departments. Sharing this equipment could also facilitate collaboration.

Dr. Chikwem: Collaboration will happen based on common interests, not necessarily common equipment. People will find their own collaborators.

Dr. Swinton: It's like we are hurting ourselves by sending students off-campus to do research. The external schools are depending on us for students. We should try to bring more resources to ourselves so that the students can work on campus.

Dr. Tung: Why can't we offer undergrad research opportunities like Delaware State University????

5) Proposed Curriculum Change GSC-111 & BIO-102/102 - Dr. Royer

Dr. Royer: I sent out copies of our proposal. I brought extra copies if necessary.

Dr. Royer: There are two proposals here. The first is to change a class from a 4 credit to a 3 credit class. I hardly have time to teach one lab. This would let us include more students (25-30) per section, and would enable it to be the science requirement for more students. The environmental science majors would see the same types of exercises in environmental ecology, so they really don't lose out from this.

Dr. Huq: Why not do what we did in astronomy and have a lab section that is registered for separately?

Dr. Royer: We could end up turning away students who want to do the lab because we can't accommodate them.

Dr. Chikwem: The proposal is to change GSC-111 from 4 to 3 credits.

Mr. Barimani: The requirement is 7 credits.

Dr. Chikwem: Vote.

Unanimous Approval.

Dr. Royer: When teaching the digestive system, it makes more sense to teach structure and function before teaching pathologies. These courses would split different systems across two courses. So essentially we would like to rename the courses to human health and disease 1 and 2. Students could then take the courses in any order making them more accessible.

Dr. Treisner: I am concerned that this could cause confusion because the names imply sequencing. Is it possible to change the names so that sequencing is not implied?

Dr. Royer: Any thoughts from biologists?

Dr. Safford: Could it be put into the computer system to prevent them from taking courses they have already taken.

Dr. Royer: The new system should take of this.

Mr. Barimani: This would keep students from retaking the class to get a better grade.

Dr. Royer: Perhaps a warning should show up in the system instead.

Dr. Chikwem: As there are no prerequisites listed, perhaps this shouldn't be an issue.

Dr. Haimbodi: I think the numbering system does create confusion. We've had people take MAT105 thinking that it was easier than MAT106.

Dr. Chikwem: I think the number system confusion will always cause confusion.

Dr. Swinton: Could you come up with names that would clarify the content?

Dr. Chikwem: The proposal before us is to change the names of these bio courses as proposed by the BIO department.

Unanimously approved.

6) Science Conference - Dr. Baskerville

Dr. Chikwem: Dr. Baskerville is still in lab. I think everyone has seen the email that I have sent regarding the science conference on the 15th of March. Please pay attention to the announcement about lunch. I don't want to pay for food that is not going to be eaten. So let us know if you are coming or not coming.

Dr. Royer: So if we are urging our classes to attend, should we have them register as well?

Dr. Safford: Could student's meal tickets be used to pay for their meal?

Dr. Chikwem: The theme will be titled: "Student's engagement for participation and success in Science," by thd dean at Morgan State. There will be four panels of students and faculty put together for discussion of topics. We would like this to be one of our most successful conferences. Encourage your students to register and to come to the conference. Many of the students who are doing poorly are the ones who don't show up for anything at Lincoln other than their classes (to which they show up late!)

7) Announcements

Dr. Chikwem: If you are interested in being a Fullbright Scholar, I have application forms here. Announcements or any other business?

Dr. Swinton: I have an announcement of summer internships which should have been emailed to you. These are opportunities that our students have participated in and done well. The contact information is missing. If you go to the Chemistry Dept. website, I've uploaded this data. There's a link to NSF's RAU programs. They can sort by type of program, geographic location, etc. If someone from each department can contact me, I can send you the link. There are also links for available scholarships. To date, I don't know that anyone has applied for such scholarships.

8) Any Other Business

Adjourned 4:58 pm.