

Lincoln University
School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
School Meeting
March 13, 2007
4:00 PM – Grim Hall Room 211

Minutes

- I. Dean Chikwem opened the meeting.
- II. The minutes of the January 16 meeting were adopted.
- III. Science Conference (March 17, 2007)

The Science Conference will be held this Saturday, March 17, 2007 in Dickey Hall Auditorium. Dean Chikwem asked faculty to compel students to come because the issue to be discussed (retention) at the conference is of importance to students. Dean Chikwem said that the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics should have a retention plan since a university-wide retention plan is unlikely; a committee will be formed after the conference to form the plan. Several representatives from Penn State will attend the Science Conference. Dr. Kenneth Hill, a neurosurgeon and Lincoln University graduate '99, and other recent Lincoln University graduates will give insights on what made them successful at the Science Conference. Faculty at Lincoln will also discuss their observations of retention. Help is needed for registration (8:30 – 9:00 AM). The conference should wrap up by 12:30 PM with lunch to follow. Faculty who would like to add items to the conference agenda should email them by Thursday.
- IV. Proposed Structure of General Science BS Degree

A handout of the general science degree was passed out. Dean Chikwem opened the floor for discussion. Several faculty members voiced their opinions. Some of the highlights are as follows:

 1. Dr. Royer asked, 'What is the function of the general science degree?'
 2. Dr. Langley has a problem with no organic chemistry in the biology portion and asked about the minor for a general science degree.
 3. Dr. Treisner addressed computer science courses.
 4. Dr. Chikwem said that students obtaining 130 credits should get some degree.
 5. Dr. Niiler asked, 'What employment do general science degree students get?'
 6. Dr. Swinton said that the university should be open to new ideas and have different levels of organic chemistry courses; he later shared an example of Univ. of Penn. organic chemistry courses.
 7. Dr. Roberts suggested more advanced physics should be offered.
 8. Dr. Shabazz said that the core requirements for mathematics should be elevated from Pre-Calculus and Calculus I to include both Calculus I and Calculus II at a minimum.
 9. Dr. Tung mentioned that organic chemistry is a pre-requisite for many courses.

Dean Chikwem asked, ‘Do we continue to have the general science degree?’ He said that the admissions office believes that the school has such a degree. He mentioned that 27.8% of students graduate in 4 years and 39% graduate in 6 years. He said that several students who have been at Lincoln for 6 years leave with nothing. Again, this sparked much discussion from faculty. Some concerns addressed included: when should the decision be made (Langley), students that left without a degree from Lincoln may have transferred or have had family issues (Treisner), systemic program needed and how many graduate with a general science degree (Haimbodi), most students have taken the necessary courses by then (Majors; disagreed by Langley), need to define the purpose of the degree to retain it (Shabazz), and no obligation by students to follow-up on advice given by faculty (Roberts).

Since it was clear that an agreement would not be made today, Dr. Royer proposed to retain, as currently structured, the general science BS degree but come up with standards. A motion was made, a vote was taken, and the motion carried. Dean Chikwem said that the faculty should come together to come up with the standards. He said that we should consider expectations of students. Dean Chikwem said that the faculty should take a critical look at our curriculum and fit it to the needs of our students. Dean Chikwem addressed the deficiencies from high schools. Earlier, Dr. Swinton mentioned that students are not being exposed to college-level courses prior to coming to Lincoln. Dean Chikwem said that we have to be original and think of a 6-year curriculum.

V. Learner Outcomes for Major Programs

Dean Chikwem handed out the learner outcomes from the School of Social Sciences and Behavioral Studies sent from Dr. DeBoy. Dean Chikwem said that chairs should address the learner outcomes for major programs that are wanted by Middle States. He posed the question of how to measure learner outcomes. To define learner outcomes, Dr. Royer thought about concepts and skills that he wants students to learn. Dr. Roberts’ mechanism addressed including assignments into modules. Dean Chikwem suggested to condense issues into broad areas. Dean Chikwem wrote a paper about performance of his Microbiology classes. In his Microbiology class, students evaluated themselves in areas; however, the students assessed themselves higher than how they actually performed. Dean Chikwem said that we, as faculty, need patience. Some students are not at the level of maturity that we think they should be. We have to convince students to do their assignments.

VI. Other Business

None.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen A. Baskerville

