

I. Welcome by Dean Chikwem

Dean Chikwem welcomed all present, thanked all for the Science Conference

II. New Curriculum

Dean Chikwem urged the respective department chairs to look over the new curricula. There will be an April meeting.

Dean announced there will be no pre-registration this Spring and invited questions:

Dr. Bhat: With no pre-registration, how would the Bookstore deal with book orders?

Dean: There will still be some registration in April.

Dr. SubbaRao: The new registration is just the same as the old pre-registration; however students will be fined for not registering.

Dr. Huq: The penalty part is new.

Dr. Royer: So the new curriculum will be done for our new [students?]

Dr. Huq: The new curricula is only going to be implemented for new incoming Fall students?

Dean Chikwem: Other universities that have implemented new curricula have also moved all students, with professional help from their advisors.

Dr. Huq: That is going to present a problem.

Dean: But how can you do it otherwise without running three parallel programs?

Dr. SubbaRao: This new curricula is really not a departure from the old one.

III. Students Award Convocation - April 2006

Dean Chikwem requested that people call Thelma Ross, Director of Financial Aid, to find out how much money is involved in the student awards. Find out what awards your department has for students.

Dr. Royer: Send names to you?

Dean: Yes.

IV. Teaching, Scholarship and Service Faculty Awards – by 31st March

Dean mentioned that he has seen only one application. If we do not have applications, we may not get Awards. He had spoken to Patricia Joseph, and determined that the deadline is the end of March. Applications are coming to the Deans office.

V. Enrollment planning: Proposed meeting with Mike Taylor

Dean Chikwem: If you're looking at the comments in educational journals, University is becoming a business. Dean is planning to have a meeting with Mike Taylor to improve admission. What we have now is unpredictable. If we have 5 tenured faculty, why should they teach only 5 students?

Dean has spoken to the President and as scientists, we can help the Admission Office with admission of sufficient students. Scholarships are just given according to

SATs and not split among programs. The recruitment for this year is not done yet, so we can influence the process.

Dr. Tung: Don't the incoming students who are interested in science have higher SATs?

Dean: Well, SATs can be deceiving. Because there are students who are placed in pre-calc based on SATs but do not perform. There are fewer students who apply to science than do to the social sciences. Since we are getting 5000 applications we can have some say in admissions based on their indication on the application.

Dr. Huq: What if the students come and then change their minds?

Dean: The undeclared students have lower retention rates.

VI. Freshman Year Experience (FYE 101) 2 courses per department

Dean: They are going to have a workshop on teaching freshman seminar. The intent is to have two courses by department. There are no more topic FYEs.

Dr. Royer: Is there no field specific content for the new courses?

Dean: No.

Dr. Bhat: How many credits?

Dean: 3 credits.

Ms. Pathak: Will there be two from Computer Science and two from Math?

Dean: No. You're considered as one department.

VII. Science Fair

Proposal by Dr. Swinton on paper.

Dean: The reason for having these changes as proposed is to allow you to plan in advance.

Dr. Hull: Is there a reason why we have the science conference in March and not beginning of February? Many recruiters who want to come and recruit for internships feel that's too late.

Dean: The date can be changed, may be before the Midterm.

Dr. Hull: Maybe the second day in February.

Dr. Tung: Nature may be more kind to us in March than February.

Dr. Hull: I agree, maybe it is better to keep as is.

Dean: Ok let's keep it there.

Dr. Tung: Is the NEA going to have all their conferences here?

Dean: Umass holds the PI of the grant, and they want to feel they are helping other schools by holding conferences in partner schools.

Dr. Huq: In Physics, we have 15 internships available.

VIII. New Science Building – Barimani

Prof. Barimani not present, so Dean asked Dr. Royer to make comments on the topic.

Dr. Royer: The architects are making final adjustments based on our recommendations; and discussions on department-by-department basis.

Dean: Currently, we have gas tanks in a central place, they were thinking of changing that to individual labs. But that could be clumsy and unsafe. Will appeal to President to keep old system.

Reduction in Office space cannot be changed. Hurricane Katrina effects have been serious.

IX. AOB

None. Meeting adjourned.