Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2015

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|  | Present | Absent | Excused |
| **Faculty** |  |  |  |
| Batcher, Doris | x |  |  |
| Black, Cheryl | x |  |  |
| Coman, Marius | x |  |  |
| Donaldson, Kurt | x |  |  |
| Furler, Robert | x |  |  |
| Hepner, Roy | x |  |  |
| Hermann, Henry | x |  |  |
| Hooks, Ed | x |  |  |
| Huang, Li | x |  |  |
| Israsena Na Ayudhya, Thep | x |  |  |
| Jester, Roz | x |  |  |
| Koepke, Jay | x |  |  |
| Liu, Qin | x |  |  |
| Manacheril, George | x |  |  |
| McDevit, Dan |  |  | x |
| McGarity, Lisa | x |  |  |
| McKenzie, Jonathan | x |  |  |
| O’Neal, Lyman |  | x |  |
| Russell, Micah |  |  | x |

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|  | Present | Absent | Excused |
| Ottman, Tina | x |  |  |
| Prabhu, Nimmy |  |  | x |
| Romeo, Peggy |  |  | x |
| Trevino, Marcela |  |  | x |
| Ulrich, Melanie | x |  |  |
| Vala, Teju | x |  |  |
| Verga, Vera | x |  |  |
| Wilcox, Bill | x |  |  |
| Witty, Mike |  |  | x |
| Wolfson, Jed | x |  |  |
| Xue, Di | x |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Adjunct Faculty** |  |  |  |
| Athens, Wendy | x |  |  |
| Yusin, Dmitry | x |  |  |
| Mary Shaw |  |  |  |
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1. Minutes of November 14, 2014 meeting: The minutes of November 14, 2014 were adopted.

2. Sharing strategies for student success:

George Manacheril shared some ideas from the book “Innovation” by Walter Issacson. Main points:

1. Our educational system relies mainly on solo performances.
2. We need to move away from solo performances to group performance and be willing to share and accept ideas from others.
3. Do not shy away from what others have tried. Sharing ideas and methods ultimately produces innovation and success.

He also shared an article “closing the gap” from the December issue of the Educator Journal which analyzes the results of Teaching and Learning International survey (TLIS) released summer 2014. In the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), American students performed almost at the bottom among the OECD countries. A survey of teachers found that while American teachers spend most (26.7 hours per week) time in class teaching directly to students, teachers from those countries where students were most successful, spent on an average 40% less time teaching directly in class. Students in these countries spent more time learning through collaboration, group works, projects and other learning activities. While American teachers received almost 100% of their feedback from principals, teachers from countries where students were most successful received most of their feedback from peers. There is a lesson to learn from these results. Peer review, sharing ideas and group work are more effective for student success than solo performances and supervisor reviews.

3. Courses update: The following four new course proposals were sent to the Curriculum committee to be considered in their January/February meeting.

(i) BSC 1005C – New Course Proposal by Mary Shaw

(ii) PHY 1020C – New Course Proposal by Marius Coman

(iii) AST 2002C – New Course Proposal by Theo Koupelis

1. CHM 1020C – New Course Proposal by Marcela Trevino

In addition, two change of course proposals for PCB 3023C and PCB 3043C were approved and sent to the Curriculum committee.

4. Assessment update: There were no updates from the Assessment committee.

Common Finals are in place for most of biology, physics and interdisciplinary courses. The following faculty undertook to work on common finals this semester.

1. CHM 2025 and CHM 2032 – Doris Batcher and Qin Liu
2. BSC 1084C – Tejendrasinh Vala
3. MCB 2010C – Melanie Ulrich
4. CHM 2211 – Lisa McGarity
5. CHM 2010 – Thep Ayudhya
6. CHM 2046 – Di Xue

Roy Hepner reported that Dr. Van Gaalan has expressed interest in considering pretests.

5. Lab Course Fee:

George Shared a summary of the revenue and expenses spreadsheets received from the budget office and the Dean’s office. It was generally felt that there are not sufficient information available in these spread sheets for the science faculty to make an informed decision on lab course fee. George undertook to obtain more details from the budget office and the Dean’s office to have more discussion on this in the February meeting.

6. General Education Competencies:

The need for flexibility in linking general education competencies to course outcomes was discussed. It was the general consensus that instead of linking a general education competency to a particular course outcome, these competencies should be left in a single row so that faculty has the freedom to set assignments on any course outcome to assess a particular competency.

7. US-Brazil Connect program

Students need to be informed of this program and encouraged to apply.

8. Any other:

Lisa reported that Dr. Wright wants us to adopt some kind of make-up policy for students who miss class because of college activities. She asked for input from faculty to help her navigate this discussion in the faculty senate meeting. Students who need to be away on college activities should be helped in making up what they missed without undue burden on resources and faculty time. Faculty members were encouraged to send Lisa their thoughts on this.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM