**Biological Sciences Department Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** February 14, 2025
**Time:** 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM
**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:** Gerald Anzalone, Allison Blanco, Ronald Burton, Gabriel Gaidos, Ashley Kirkley, Katrin Koel-Abt, Jay Koepke, Nina Lichvarik, Mitch Lucas, Ann Mantell, Elimelec Medina, Emily Porter, Peggy Romeo, Mike Sauer, Vera Sullivan, Teju Vala, Melanie Ulrich, Michael Witty
**Excused:** Ed Hooks, Corey Lehigh, Amy Lehigh, Gregg Mason, Jordan Donini, Lisa Pickell, Lisa Hermann, Henry Hermann.

**Discussion Items:**

1. **Accommodations for Non-Native English Speakers:**
A question was raised regarding accommodations for students whose native language is not English, specifically the use of resources like Google Translate on exams. The professor consulted with the Office of Adaptive Services and was informed that non-native English fluency is not considered a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Faculty suggested that students consider additional English classes to improve their proficiency. It was agreed that if an instructor's syllabus prohibits the use of digital devices during exams, this policy applies to all students equally.
2. **Makeup Opportunities for Missed Exams:**
A discussion ensued regarding makeup exams for situations not explicitly covered in the college catalog (e.g., transportation issues, car accidents, acute illness, childcare). The instructor noted that their syllabus states missed lab exams cannot be made up. The faculty reaffirmed that policies outlined in the syllabus are the governing rules for the course.
3. **BSC 1010 Common Assessment Revision:**
The Biology faculty will revise the BSC 1010 common assessment to incorporate analysis of Team AASPIRE in their assessment report. The course supervisor recently met with Dr. Joseph van Gaalen, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Research, Assessment and Effectiveness, to discuss the report and will share relevant details from that conversation with the Biology faculty at the next discipline meeting.
4. **Course Development:**
A faculty member raised concerns regarding the development of a new course (BSC 1050C) by an adjunct instructor who is also employed at FGCU. This new course will replace a course that is no longer offered at FSW. The faculty member's concern was not with the development of the course itself, but rather with the process. Specifically, the faculty member noted that the relevant FSW faculty were not involved in the development process.
*(Note: The department chair followed up with Dr. Gus Cameron, Associate Dean of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences. Dr. Cameron explained that any full-time faculty are encouraged to volunteer to bring this course before the Curriculum Committee and participate in its development, that was the intent behind Dr. Schott mentioning this at the School meeting).*
5. **McGraw-Hill Online Resources and Upcoming Webinar:**
A McGraw-Hill publishing team presented a demonstration of their online interactive student resources, including Sharpen and Connect. The presentation focused on BSC 1005, but similar applications are available for Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, and Chemistry. The demonstration highlighted module quizzes, a popular student resource. These quizzes contain publisher-vetted questions that are not repeated in module tests and provide feedback explaining why incorrect answers are wrong. Several Biology faculty members will pilot these resources in their Fall semester courses.
A recording of the presentation is available at: Zoom Recording (Passcode: \*KFJK1G1).
McGraw-Hill is also hosting a student-focused webinar on "6 Ways Students Learn" on March 4th. Registration is available at: Webinar Registration.

**Meeting concluded.**
The next meeting will take place on Friday, March 14th, via this link: Zoom Meeting
**Meeting ID:** 279 719 6517
**Passcode:** 110824

**Minutes recorded by:** GA