Department of Physical Science Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Faculty | Present | Absent | Excused |
| Luminita Coman | X |  |  |
| Yadab Paudel | X |  |  |
| Marius Coman | X |  |  |
| Kimberly Hilton | X |  |  |
| Soumya Bhattacharya | X |  |  |
| Serhiy Pasishnyk |  |  | X |
| Valentin Zalessov | X |  |  |
| Di Xue | X |  |  |
| Courtney Sparrow | X |  |  |
| Gabriel Gaidos | X |  |  |
| Michael Sauer | X |  |  |
| Qin Liu | X |  |  |

**Summary**

**Hurricane Preparedness and Mentor Assignment**

We discussed the potential impact of a hurricane on their upcoming activities, emphasizing the need to prepare for an online transition if necessary. In our department, there is only one adjunct professor, Robert Nordstrom has not finished the Emergency Remote Readiness class, and Libby had asked Qin to assign a mentor to help. Jerry from the biology department offered to take care of this, so Qin did not need to do anything further.

**Course Assessment and Teaching Quality**

We discussed course assessment, focusing on improving teaching quality. We identified issues such as difficult questions and lower performance in online courses, particularly for Intro Chem. We will try to give more practice exercises and motivation for students to improve outcomes.

**CHM2025 Prerequisite Removal Discussion**

We discussed removing the CHM2025 from a list of prerequisites for CHM2045, citing concerns about the timeframe for completing General Chemistry and Organic Chemistry within two years. We have concerns about students' readiness for the 2045 chemistry course, noting that many entering state colleges are not adequately prepared, especially those from high schools where teachers are underpaid and may lack expertise in certain subjects. We discussed the importance of the 2025 course as a foundational level, emphasizing the need to guide students through this material before advancing to 2045, which is intended for STEM-focused students.

**Next steps**

• Sam will work on establishing correspondence between questions and learning outcomes for the CHM2046 common final.

• Courtney will take over course supervisor/lead for CHM 2025.

• Chemistry department to continue discussion about potentially removing CHM 2025 from the prerequisite list at a future department meeting.

• Faculty to review assessment reports and consider modifications to difficult questions, particularly question 5 on the CHM 2045 common final.