DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS  
FACULTY MEETING MINUTES  
October 16, 2006


Absent: Kelly Elkins.

I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on October 16, 2006 in the Conference Room 2603. Dr. Will Lynch presided.

II. Approval of Minutes  
The minutes of September 25, 2006 were approved as presented.

III. Old Business  
There was no old business to discuss.

IV. New Business  
A. Committee Reports  
1. Assessment Committee – The committee met on October 11 and reviewed the objectives for CHEM 1211/1212 and labs, CHEM 1151/1152, PHYS 1111/1112 and PHYS 2211/2212. The topic of solution concentrations appears in the CHEM 1212 objectives but the topic of solutions is mentioned in the catalog description for CHEM 1211. The General Chemistry Committee will be notified that a request to amend the course description of CHEM 1211 and 1212 should be made to the Department Curriculum Committee. Prior to the approval of such a request, the objective dealing with solution concentrations should appear in the CHEM 1211 list.

The committee then discussed the administration of the CHEM 1211/1212 ACS exams. Dr. Clifford Padgett met with Ms. Pam Culberson from CIS and figured out how to get meaningful data from the scoring of those exams. As part of this, there will be a cover sheet that the committee will design and it will be available in the department office. Since newer versions of the ACS exams are now available, the committee requests that the department purchase sufficient new exams for administration this semester.

The committee would like for the department to adopt the policy of the administration of the ACS exams. The motion was brought to the floor and the faculty unanimously voted on the adoption of the policy of the administration of the ACS exams.

The last thing the committee reported was that Dr. Wallace examined the department’s Tenure and Promotion Guidelines and the new guidelines for the College of Arts and Sciences and reported that the department’s document is consistent with the new A & S
Guidelines and he also recommended that nothing should be changed.

For your information, the different Committee Minutes will be posted on the WEB so you can read them at your convenience. They may be accessed at http://chemistry.armstrong.edu, click on committees.

2. ACS Certification Committee – Dr. Hizer informed the faculty that the committee reviewed the presentations of both Cassandra Dyal and Jodi Hadden and found that both students meet the requirements and are fit to be certified.

Also, the committee is presently waiting to find out from the ACS what specifically they need for re-certification.

3. Experiential Activities Committee – First of all, Ms. Mullenax thanked the faculty for all the help received during the Fun in Science Demonstration activities. Three of these Fun in Science Demonstration activities were held here at AASU as follows: on September 28, 2006 twenty five third and fifth graders from Southeast Elementary School came as a part of this outreach; on October 5, 2006 the Savannah Christian School brought 41 students from the 8th grade and on October 12, Georgetown Elementary School brought 95 students from the 4th and 5th grades. Also as part of this outreach 3 other schools participated but the activities were held at their schools, namely, Liberty High School with 40 ninth graders; RamBam Day School with 28 fifth and sixth graders and Woodbine Elementary School with 110 students from the second, fourth and fifth grades.

Ms. Mullenax also reminded us that Dr. Andreas Illies, from Auburn University, would be here on Thursday, October 19, 2006 to speak on Molecular Bonding. The Seminar will be held at 1:00pm in the SC 2504.

Ms. Mullenax encouraged everyone to mark in his or her calendars the upcoming Science Bowl. On January 27/2006 the university will be hosting the regular Science Bowl competition, and on February 24/2006 the University will be hosting the state competition.

4. Curriculum Committee – The committee voted to modify the course descriptions of the introductory physics courses. Please refer to the Curriculum Committee minutes posted on the Web to view modifications. A motion was brought up to the floor and the faculty voted unanimously to approve the modifications made to the course descriptions of the introductory physics courses.

The committee also voted to make changes to the general requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics. Please refer to the minutes on the Web also to view changes.

Finally, the committee discussed the addition of a laboratory, GEOL 2010L, as a
co-requisite to GEOL 2010. There was some concern as to the department’s ability to staff the course, as well as some question regarding its basic necessity. Dr. Lynch reported that at the moment the department would lack the resources to teach GEOL 2010L, but the issue would be brought-up at a later time to be discussed.

5. Planning Committee – First of all, Dr. Nivens informed the faculty that they are getting ready to start working on the Newsletter and will be looking for submissions. The committee officially drafted both Dr. Lynch and Dr. Padgett to submit something since both are new in their positions. Namely, Dr. Lynch has been appointed Head of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, and Dr. Padgett is the newest member of the faculty.

Also, the committee checked with External Affairs to see whether or not it was possible for them to start an Internal Capital Campaign to provide funds for instrumentation. External Affairs reported that it is possible provided they ask individuals only.

Please feel free to view the Planning Committee minutes, which is posted on the Web for your convenience.

6. Safety Committee – At the moment the safety committee had nothing to report.

7. General Chemistry Committee – The committee reviewed and revised lab and lecture objectives for CHEM 1211 and 1212 and submitted these objectives to the Assessment Committee per their request. Copies of these objectives will be forwarded to the department for their consideration.

B. Pharmacy Program Up-date

Ms. Carpenter passed out some handouts with information regarding the Pharmacy Program of UGA, Mercer and South universities. The handout also contains information regarding the P-CAT exam, which has been changed a little bit. The same has more calculus in the Math section and more organic chemistry in the Chemistry section. She encouraged the faculty to share the information with students.

She added that when advising pre-pharmacy students they should mention that the BA is a viable option for them.

C. Biochemistry Search

Ms. Carpenter informed the faculty that Dr. Charles Sweet will be here on campus for an interview on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Dr. Sweet will be speaking on “New directions in Endotoxin Research” at 1:00pm in University Hall 157.

D. Chemistry Search Up-date

Dr. Lynch reminded the faculty that the department has been given permission to conduct two more chemistry searches. The faculty has discussed this with more detail and the position one will reside in analytical chemistry, while position two will be
essentially a support to the organic, inorganic or biochemistry curriculum. The ads will go to the Dean this afternoon for approval. They will be up on the Web shortly to meet the Thursday deadline. The ads will be in print by November 6th and will be running for ten days. We are anticipating to have the searches going full speed between the months of January and February. There will be two separate committees to handle each search since there are two separate searches.

E. Chemistry Advising for Spring

Dr. Lynch reminded the faculty also that some time ago they talked about a rotation schedule for the Bachelors Degree in chemistry. He emphasized the fact that it is critical to get students into the P-chem course (CHEM 3401) this semester, especially those who would be graduating in 2008 with a BS degree. He also added the importance in communicating to sophomore and junior students who are not in P-chem during this term and to encourage them to develop a graduation plan as well.

Another issue that needs to be considered at this point is to start talking about waving pre-requisites on a one time and individual basis if needed. He commented that the original rotation had CHEM 3200 and 3300 flipping. Which also caused that both CHEM 4200 and 4300 to flip as well. After careful review, it turned out that it was better that 3200 stays where it is because it will ease this transition by 50%.

F. Other

1. Dr. Lynch reminded the faculty of the internal grants that are due, namely the R&S and T&L grants.

2. Another issue that needs consideration is how the department is going to handle its presence in the Web. CIS has proposed three different addresses and they are as follow: a- chemistryphysics.armstrong.edu; b- chemphys.armstrong.edu c- cp.armstrong.edu

3. Dr. Lynch asked the faculty to look at the secondary Web page and notify him of anything he may have left out or needs to be included.

V. Announcements

A. Good News. 1- Dr. Nivens asked the faculty to mark on their calendars the CHEM 4500 Poster Session for the seniors, which will take place on November 20th from 12-1:00pm in SC 1407. Also the CHEM 4500 talks are scheduled to be as follows: November 29th from 12-1:00pm in SC 1407; December 1st from 12-1:00pm in SC 1407 and December 4th from 12-1:00pm in SC 1407. Jessica Miller will present the talk on CHEM 5700, which is an independent study on the History of Women in Chemistry. This presentation will take place on December 6th also in SC 1407.

2- Dr. Nivens shared the good news about Liz Baker, who published a paper based on her undergraduate research in Chemistry Educator. Ms. Baker recently got married and she is also applying to graduate school.

4. Dr. MacGowan announced that Sofie Hakanson wrote her. Ms. Hakanson has been teaching in Sweeden for the past two years. She sent her regards to everyone.

5. On November the 17th the ACS will be honoring their 50-year members. The banquet will be held at the University Dining Room at MCC. The time will be announced at a later date. Please let Dr. MacGowan know if you are planning to attend the banquet; dinner is free.

6. Dr. Lynch shared that Nin Dingra passed her orals and is on her way to her PhD. Derek Baudoin will be the first student graduating with a BA chemistry degree. The department will also have three certified majors, Jeremy Hammond, Cassandra Dyal and Christina Dacey. There will be 7 chemistry graduates at the December 2006 graduation.

7. Ms. Carpenter shared that Josh Harrison has been accepted at the East Tennessee State University Pharmacy School. She also said that Stephanie Bergman applied at NASA and got a job with the Research Program and will be conducting a project here.

8. Dr. Zipperer shared the good news that Jack Benton got accepted at MCG Medical School.

B. Other
   Dr. Hizer brought the subject about the trash, which is not being picked-up. Dr. Lynch will look into the matter.

C. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 27, 2006.

VI. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

cc: Dr. Ellen V. Whitford Vice-President and Dean of Faculty
    Dr. Ed Wheeler, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
    Dr. Mark Finlay, Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences