DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS
FACULTY MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2007


I. Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon on September 24, 2007 in the Conference Room 2603. Dr. Will Lynch presided.

II. Approval of Minutes
The Minutes of August 13 were approved as presented.

III. Old Business
A- Physics Search Update – Dr. Baird informed the faculty that the Physics Search ad is currently in the Human Resources Department waiting to be processed.

Dr. Lynch took the opportunity to mention the process of faculty background check. The Department of Human Resources originally suggested that ads should include that the successful candidate would have to pass a background check, which would be conducted by Department Heads. The general opinion was that this procedure was inappropriate; therefore, the procedure is currently under review, more information will be forthcoming.

B- MRR-Phase II – An update of the MRR-Phase II was given by Dr. Lynch. Currently, the work is scheduled to take place around Christmas. Phase II will also include some work that needs to be done in the Biology Department. Finally, Phase III is expected to start in a year or two and it is anticipated that this project will finish the building in one shot.

C- Reorganization up-date – The reorganization to form the College of Science and Technology will likely include the departments of Biology, Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Chemistry and Physics. There may be other movement including Psychology in this college. This reorganization of the colleges will be effective July 2008, however, it is not clear when the final decision will be announced.

D- Fire Alarm – Regarding the fire alarm, faculty should be aware that when the alarm goes off Public Safety is not alerted because the only buildings that they are hard wired into Public Safety are the dormitories. However, Plant Operations is alerted immediately since they are hard wired into the system. Therefore, during the day, if and
when the alarm goes off Dr. Lynch or Gladys will call Public Safety to notify them. At night or if neither one is around, Dr. Lynch asked the faculty to please take the initiative to notify Public Safety. Specifically at night, remind public safety that plant operations needs to be contacted to reset the air handling system.

IV. **New Business**

A- Committee Reports

i. Assessment Committee – No report.

ii. ACS Certification Committee – No report.

iii. Curriculum Committee - Ms. Carpenter informed the faculty that the Curriculum Committee met on 9/20/07 and unanimously recommended the deletion of the Program of Study for the B.S. in Chemistry with Teacher Certification. The rationale is that the post-baccalaureate with teacher certification and the proposed Master of Arts in Teaching degree will allow those with a bachelor’s in a certifiable area of study to obtain initial certification either through post-baccalaureate certification or a master’s program. These two options will obviate the need for the B.S. in Chemistry with Teacher Certification.

The faculty voted unanimously in favor of the deletion of the B.S. with Teacher Certification.

iv. Planning Committee – No report.

v. Safety Committee – No Report. Dr. Lynch took the opportunity to charge the committee with developing a hygiene plan for the department which includes having a documented and current inventory of the department stores as well as evaluating the need of first aid kits in every laboratory.

vi. General Chemistry Committee – No Report.

B- STEM – USG – Dr. Lynch reminded the faculty that about a year ago the new Chancellor put a group of Presidents together, among them Dr. Jones to report on the status of STEM in Georgia. The report indicated that the State of Georgia and the University System is falling short of meeting the future demand and needed to produce more scientists. Therefore, they have put together targets for the USG to meet so that by the year 2013 the system would essentially double the amount of graduates in the science field.

The USG announced over the summer that it would be putting approximately 5 ½ million dollars annually behind this initiative in the form of an RFP. The College, under the leadership of Dean Wheeler responded to this initiative by requesting funds for an Academy for Future Teachers, STEM majors increase and a PRISM type initiative to be carried out locally. Our department would participate in the Academy, which, for our purposes is essentially a Summer Science Camp for high school students interested in becoming future teachers. The department will not be running the camp, but will have
the opportunity to participate in it. The stipend per-day promises to be very substantial, so Dr. Lynch encouraged the faculty to get involved.

Requests for funds to continue PRISM-type programs locally have also been requested.

Also, there is another initiative to increase STEM majors involves increasing the number of faculty positions. Dean Wheeler decided to distribute the positions as follows: 1 in Mathematics, 2 for Biology, 1 for Chemistry and 1 for Physics. Therefore, in the proposal submitted by the department, we asked to hire two new faculty, one for Chemistry and one for Physics. The rationale used to substantiate this was that in Physics in the next academic year we are going to move to the studio format, which will mean a lower class size and hence a greater number of faculty required. Regarding Chemistry, it was also proposed to lower the class in General Chemistry, provide further innovation in general chemistry laboratory and increase opportunities in chemistry activities. However, the institutions is required to commited to make the positions tenure-track positions, and Dr. Whitford committed to that.

C- S-STEM – Ms. Carpenter shared that the National Science Foundation has funded a grant to AASU that provides scholarships in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Dr. Greenlaw and Chris McCarthy from the School of computing along with Ms. Carpenter wrote a proposal and were awarded $483,000 beginning in January 2008, which will provide up to $10,000 per student. The scholarships for our department were divided as follows: 6 for Chemistry and 4 for Physics. Students interested in obtaining a scholarship need to have a 3.0 GPA, as well as being financially needs based. The scholarships will be made available in January 2008. More information will be shared regarding these scholarships as soon as the Website is up and running and applications taken.

D- CUR Meeting – The faculty was made aware by Dr. Lynch that Council or Undergraduate Research is hosting workshops on “institutionalizing undergraduate research”. They will be hosting one of these workshops in Atlanta in the middle of October and AASU is applying to send a team to participate. The team consists of Dean Wheeler who is the senior Administrator, Dr. Nivens, who is the chair the group, Dr. Wong from the Psychology Department and Dr. Gregerson from the Biology Department.

E- Advisement – This year, as in previous years, there will be a three-week period for Fall pre-registration, but once these three-week period ends, so will the web-registration. In previous years, the web-registration was kept opened one week after pre-registration, but the Faculty Welfare Committee asked that the Council of Deans address the issue and the result was that web registration will not be opened beyond the end of the advising period. Dr. Lynch asked that the faculty share this matter with students as they are advising students.

F- Environmental Science/Studies – Dean Wheeler has asked we participate in discussing the possibility of an interdisciplinary Environmental Science/Studies minor.
Dr. Nivens has already been called to talk with Dr. Finlay about this matter as our departmental representative. The goal is to make this minor out of existing courses so their will be no additional workload issues for departments.

G- Lunch of September 12/2007 – Dr. Lynch wanted feedback about the results of the departmental recruiting / informational lunch that took place on September 12. The response was that it was a very good idea. It was recommended that this occur each semester, all faculty were supportive of this initiative as a good way to inform students of opportunities in our department. The plans are to have another one in January 2008.

H- Honors Chemistry – Dr. Lynch announced that Honors General Chemistry II will be taught again this coming spring by Dr. Nivens and Dr. Padgett.

I- Internal Grants – Dr. Lynch encouraged the faculty to participate in the Internal Grants. The Internal Grants are due on October 19/2007, the Dean would like to be able to process them on October 17 if possible and Dr. Lynch would like to have them by the end of the day on Monday October 15 if at all possible.

J- Summer Faculty Student Collaborative – Dr. Lynch informed the faculty that The Summer Faculty Student Collaborative has been a very successful program for the College and commended those faculty members who participated. Dr. Wheeler announced in DeanNotes the program will be continued with an RFP date of Dec. 15. Faculty were encouraged to submit a proposal to help support their scholarly activities.

K- NMR – Dr. Lynch let the faculty know that on Tuesday, September 25th Stanley Willbanks from JEOL would be here on campus to repair the NMR. He asked the faculty to assist Mr. Willbanks in anything he may need.

L- Science Career in Savannah – Dr. Lynch made the faculty aware of an upcoming event that Skidaway Institute is hosting on October 13 at 2pm. This is a career program for future scientists.

V. Announcements

Ms. Carpenter announced that on Wednesday October 10, 2007 at noon in room 2502 there will be a Seminar conducted by Dr. Amanda Tel-Moon. Dr. Tel-Moon will be speaking on Interesting Career Opportunities in Compounding Pharmacy.

Dr. MacGowan announced that on October 1st the Coastal Georgia Section of the ACS is having its first meeting of the academic year at Moon River Brewery from 5-7pm. The first hour will be “Happy Hour” with appetizers followed by talk on restoration of the Hunley. She requested RSVP by September 28th, 2007.

Also, the Coastal Georgia Section will be hosting its annual Low Country Boil to be held on October 19th at 6pm at the Bamboo Farms. Dr. MacGowan requested RSVP by October 17th. On November 15th, 2007 there will be a talk given on Zinc Interaction with Cellular Membranes by a professor from the University of Florida. The talk will be
held here on campus at MCC at 6pm. Dr. MacGowan will let everyone know later who the speaker will be as well as the actual title of the talk. She also asked that the faculty to be on the look for future announcements for the ACS banquet honoring Coastal Georgia’s 50 year members in early December.

Dr. Zipperer shared that the department assisted five students who were accepted to professional school last year.

Dr. Lynch reported the following communications with alumni.

Dr. Lynch mentioned that Patrick Sisco took his orals and is currently working for Cathy Murphy at the University of South Carolina. He and John Stone recently published a paper: “Using Gold Nanorods to Probe Cell-Induced Collagen Deformation” Stone, J. W.; Sisco, P. N.; Goldsmith, E. C.; Baxter, S. C.; Murphy, C. J. Nano Lett.; (Letter); 2007; 7(1); 116-119.

Dr. Lynch ran into Clint Brooks in Boston. Dr. Brooks is doing very well and has a approximately dozen people working under his supervision, his is working for Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Dr. Lynch had talked with John Stone, a former student who is on track to be graduating in the summer with his Ph.D. in chemistry from Dr. Murphy’s group at USC.

Nin Dingra also communicated with Dr. Lynch that she is doing well and making progress toward her Ph.D. in biochemistry at USC as well.

Brandon Quillian, former BS chemistry graduate, is on track to graduate this spring with a Ph.D. in organometallics from the University of Georgia working with Dr. Greg Robinson.


XIII. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm.
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