
Absent:

I. **Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. on August 15, 2008, in the Conference Room 2603. Dr. Will Lynch presided.

II. **Welcome:** The faculty and staff were welcomed back and Dr. Tony Sumaryada was introduced to the department and welcomed as a temporary assistant professor of physics.

III. **New Business:**

   A- College of Science and Technology (CST) – Dr. Lynch gave a brief overview of the new College. He discussed various issues related to the college.

   B- Tax Exempt Status – The department was reminded that when making local purchases that state sales tax cannot be reimbursed. There is a tax exempt form on the AASU website that should be taken used when purchasing (either using the department credit card or personal credit cards) items.

   C –Budget – Dr. Lynch informed the department that he had not seen a departmental budget to date, but was informed by Dean Shields to proceed as normal until informed otherwise.

   D- Travel – Faculty were encouraged to determine their travel needs early with the status of the budget uncertain, money should be encumbered as soon as possible.

   E- Website – The department website is transferring over to http://chemphys.armstrong.edu, and the site is active at this time. The department was encouraged to examine the site and make comments/corrections.

   F- Summer Collaboratives – Dr. Lynch commented on the high level of undergraduate research activity this summer and congratulated faculty on the Summer Collaboratives sponsored by the Dean of Arts and Sciences. He also reminded faculty that Dr. Shields was expecting final reports in the short term.

   G- General Chemistry Laboratories – Dr. MacGowan discussed some changes to the general chemistry laboratory sequence, including new adaptations of green principles.

   H- Mathematica – The USG is in the final stages of negotiating a contract with Wolfram for statewide use of Mathematica. We will monitor the situation and work with our CST colleagues to be part of the package when it is available.
I – Repeating / Repeaters – Dr. Lynch brought up to the department the burden that students who constantly withdraw and or repeat a course cause on the resources of the department. The faculty / staff discussed the issue and would like to pursue options to limit the impact and frequency. Changing grade forgiveness, institute a total number of W on can take during matriculation and financial penalties were all ideas discussed.

J - Summer 2009 – A plan to include a “Mayme ster” that would allow for back to back six week sessions was discussed. This includes also the potential of moving to a four day work week and would allow for summer sequences (such as both CHEM 1211 & 1212, PHYS 1111 & 1112, etc.) to be offered. This would allow for greater flexibility for faculty to teach courses as well as students to consider taking courses. The department was supportive of exploring this idea further.

IV. Announcements:
C- Dr. Radha Narayanan (B.S. Chemistry, May 2000), has joined the faculty at the University of Rhode Island as an Assistant Professor.
D- Dr. John Stone (B.S. Chemistry, May 2002) has completed his Ph.D. with Dr. Cathy Murphy at the University of South Carolina and has moved to the Vanderbilt School of Medicine as a post-doctoral fellow.
E- Ms. Carpenter announced that Eric Davis and Meg Stern are the departments S-STEM scholars for 2008-09 in chemistry.
F- Dr. Lynch commended faculty on a variety and large number of successful summer activities: TQ and PRISM activities by D. Mullenax and S. Brush, S-STEM scholarship oversight for the College, S. Carpenter, Grant submissions by R. Wallace, C. Padgett, B. Feske, C. MacGowan, T. Hizer, S. Carpenter, L. Padgett, W. Baird, J. Smith, E. Werner, Summer Collaboratives by R. Wallace, E. Werner, C. Padgett, D. Nivens, J. Smith, institution of ISCI 2002 by C. MacGowan among other activities. The faculty were thanked for their great efforts not only in a large enrollment this summer but the strength and breadth of activities in the department.

Meeting adjourned: 12:10 pm
Next meeting to be determined by Faculty Senate schedule.