DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS  
FACULTY MEETING MINUTES  
February 19, 2014


Absent: Randal Wilson.

I. Call To Order  
The meeting was called to order at 12:00 on February 19, 2014 in Room 2502. Dr. Will Lynch presided.

II. Approval of Minutes  
The Minutes from January 22, 2014 were approved with one correction.

III. New Business  
A. SPARC II Up-date  
Dr. Weiland up-dated the faculty regarding the upcoming SPARC II seminar on improving student success and retention. There will be a pair of consultants on campus Wed. March 12 - Fri. March 14, to discuss minority student retention with faculty. If there is interest to speak on a one-on-one basis with either speaker, please inform Dr. Weiland so arrangements can be made. The seminar's schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
Dr. Robert Palmer will speak on improving student success and retention and the seminar will be held from 4:00pm-5:00pm in room 1407.

Thursday, March 13, 2014  
Dr. Palmer will be available to answer questions on an open forum, specifically for faculty from the Department of Chemistry and Physics from 3:30pm-4:00pm in the Conference Room 2603. Immediately following the open forum, Dr. Rosalyn Hobson Hargraves will continue with the second day of the seminar on improving student success and retention in room 1407 from 4:00-5:00pm.

Friday, March 14, 2014  
Dr. Rosalyn Hobson Hargraves will be available again at an open forum for departmental faculty to ask questions. The Open Forum will be held from 2:00pm-2:30pm in room 1407.

B. Supplemental Instruction  
We have dropped substantially in General Chemistry regarding our ability to offer Supplemental Instruction (SI). We are having difficulty hiring students to work as SI’s. Currently, Dr. Lea Padgett is working on hiring a second person. Right now the General Chemistry schedule is T 11am-2pm Hawes Hall room206; F 3:30pm5:30pm, SC 1107.
Organic Chemistry is doing well and we have one student in Physics. We, however, need to ensure that the supplemental instruction's schedules are posted around the building to keep students well informed.

C. Early Grades
Last semester 28 faculty participated in the Early Grades pilot. The result was that nearly 85% of the 1,257 Early Grades reported were equal to or within one letter grade earned in the course and student performance improved as well. Dr. Lynch encouraged the faculty to continue supporting Dr. Delana Nivens as she continues to implement the Early Grades effort.

D. CST Dean Support for Untenured Faculty Research
All untenured faculty received support for their research programs from the CST Dean either in the form of travel or money for materials.

E. Degree Works
Last week Dr. Nivens sent an e-mail strongly encouraging instructors to learn how to use Degree Works. Basically, Degree Works is a degree audit system that will help instructors advise their students in a more effective and efficient way. According to Dr. Nivens, the implementation of this software will reduce the amount of time selecting classes and will allow more time for personal discussion with students about their degree and career options. Degree Works is interfaced to SHIP. The dates of the workshops are listed in that same e-mail Dr. Nivens sent on February 13/2014.

Dr. Lynch encouraged the faculty to check it out and attend one of the workshops if possible. Eventually, the implementation of Degree Works will do away with the need for paper.

F. Scholarships – Kolodny, Dorminey and Kemira
This is just a reminder that it is scholarships time and that we are going to begin advertising the scholarships. The Kolodny Scholarship is one that we have influence over and it goes to chemistry and physics majors.

A few months ago External Affairs promised to move the Dorminey and the Kemira scholarships into our shop so that we could handle them directly from here. Yet, I am still waiting to hear from them. The Dorminey scholarship support students in chemistry giving priority to students who are married and working full-time and the Kemira provides support for deserving students majoring in chemistry and that are full-time students.

G. Graduation – May 2014
Graduation is just around the corner. We have 13 Chemistry students and 1 Physics student graduating this coming May as of today.

H. Admitted Students Day – April 5, 2014 (10:00am-11:00am)
A couple of semesters ago during a Navigate session we had students walking through the department, especially the labs in an effort to get students acquainted with the university. On April 5, 2014 from 10-11am we will be having an Admitted Students Day in an effort to get these students that have already been admitted to commit to the University. The CST has decided to format the event where the Dean welcomes the students and addresses them for 5 minutes and then they break into 2 different groups based on their interests. Dr. Lynch will be approaching some of the faculty members to participate and have the students go through some of the labs.
Admitted Students Day will replace Navigate sessions starting the Spring semester next year.

I. Annual Training and Compliance Awareness Month ends Friday, February 28/2014
It is ethics month awareness and we all must comply and go through the Ethics Training.

J. Internship @ Customs Lab
About an hour ago Dr. Lynch received a telephone call from the Customs Lab informing him that they have an internship space open. The closing time is Friday, February 21/2014 at 5pm. The internship is for a chemistry student either with a B.A. degree or about to get one.

IV. Old Business
A- Search Up-date – Organic Tenure Track
We had three candidates on campus but unfortunately, we were not successful with the search and we will continue to move forward.

B- Budget 2013-2014
The department is still in good shape as far as the budget is concerned. If anyone is anticipating needing chemicals or items for classroom activities for the end of the semester and/or for the upcoming summer semester for their research labs, please make sure that you get them now.

C. Faculty Senate Elections
We currently have two seats and two nominees, therefore we are going to close the nominations today and proceed with what we have.

D. EOY Requests
Basically, what we submitted to the Dean’s office was everything that was in the Planning list. We ended up with nine or eleven items that were all justified.

We are not sure if we will have EOY support this year since it looks like the President will move EOY funds into a research based grants program for faculty. If that is the case, then faculty will be able to apply to get salary.

E. Retention, Pre-Tenure and Post-Tenure
We are halfway through this process. We thank everyone for their continued participation. The folders that are done have been placed behind the administrative assistant’s desk for everyone to sign.

F. Summer 2014 and Fall 2014
The summer enrollment numbers will, hopefully, increase. The General Chemistry numbers could use improvement but Organic Chemistry numbers are fine.

Right now, the fall enrollment numbers as a university could use improvement and hopefully they will increase shortly.

VI. Announcements
A. Athletic Hall of Fame – Ms. Mullenax
Former Chemistry graduate and volleyball player Sofie V. Hakansson will be inducted into the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, February 21, 2014 at 6:30 at the AASU Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet at the Armstrong Center. Ms. Hakansson is flying from Sweden to be here.
B. Congratulations, Ben Conner – Dr. Conner
Dr. Conner will start working at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in May 2014. He will be working with the Correlated Electron Materials Group trying to develop cheaper alternatives to strong rare earth magnets. Good luck, Dr. Conner!!!

C. Pharmacy School Admissions – Ms. Carpenter
1- Ashlynn Dykes was accepted at Palm Beach Atlantic and at South University but decided to attend South University.

2- Kerry Nelson was accepted at Mercer University, South University and at University of Georgia, but decided to attend South University.

3- Gabriel Gherman was accepted at Presbyterian College and South University and decided to Attend South University.

4- Kristina Pascutti was accepted at UGA Veterinary School – Ms. Mullenax

5- Natan Peek was accepted at Florida State, South Carolina and Georgia Tech for Chemistry Graduate School. – Dr. Lynch

6- Jonathan Groover has been accepted to University of North Carolina, North Carolina State and University of Florida for Graduate School in Chemistry. – Dr. Lynch

7- Scott Harman was accepted to Georgia Regents University for Dental School – Fall 2014. – Dr. Lynch

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

D. Laptop Stolen from Lab – Dr. Padgett
A laptop was stolen from one of the Chemistry and Physics Labs. Dr. Lynch encouraged the faculty again to be very mindful of making sure that the lab rooms are locked and closed when not in use.

cc: Dr. Robert Gregerson, Dean, College of Science and Technology
    Dr. John Kraft, Interim Assistant Dean, College of Science and Technology