

Minutes of Departmental Committee Meeting

1:30 Tuesday, March 14, 2017, Room 9341

(Professors Berry, Brunold, Burke, Burstyn, Garand, Gellman, Goldsmith, Hamers, Hermans, Jin, Landis, McMahon, Moore, Nathanson, Schmidt, Schomaker, Shakhashiri, Sibert, Smith, Stahl, Weisshaar, Wright, Yethiraj, Yoon, Zanni attending.

Rachel Bain, Stephen Block, Pam Doolittle, Tracy Drier, Kayla Driscoll, Ilia Guzei, Jeanne Hamers, Heike Hofstetter, Tony Jacob, Rob McClain, Paul McGuire, Cheri Rossi, Michael Schwartz, Bob Shanks, Alan Silver, Martha Vestling, Vanessa Orr, Char Horsfall, Quinn Lorang, Steve Myers, Jeff Nielsen, Cheri Stephens, Karen Stephens, Cecilia Stodd, and Pat Egan also attended.

Open Session

Minutes of the last meeting (12/13/16) were approved on a voice vote.

Announcements and Reports

Safety Update

Jeff Nielsen related that there is a current emphasis on electrical safety including training and the use of extension cords/strips. All appliances need to be plugged directly into an outlet – let him know if you think you need an outlet installed.

Safety also includes housekeeping – please keep items organized and remove trash frequently.

Ladder safety – wood ladders are not allowed on campus. Let Jeff know if you need a ladder that needs to be replaced.

Jeff & crew are working on a 100% Capital Equipment Inventory and will be moving through the offices and labs to complete the inventory.

Jeff is also working on off-site long term storage due to the new building construction. Talk with Jeff if your group is in need of this type of storage.

Awards!

Bob McMahon announced the awards that we have learned of since our last report.

Libby Dowdall – L&S Early Career award
Brian Esselman – L&S Early Career award
Mark Wendt – L&S Mid-Career award
Arrietta Clauss – L&S Mid-Career award
Tony Jacob - Judith Craig Distinguished Service Award
Nick Hill – Taylor Teaching award
Brian Esselman – Taylor Teaching award
Jim Weisshaar – Warf named professorship award
Ive Hermans – Vilas award

Administrative Update

Pat Egan reminded academic staff that PARS are due.

Introduction of new staff in the business office: Quinn Lorang (financial specialist) and Kayla Driscoll (Assistant to the Chair)

Parking pass reservations can be made with a path coordinator or Kayla

Travel help is available to anyone booking trips, especially new travelers

Active shooter training Thursday, March 23 at 3:30 in seminar hall

Faculty Recruiting

Bob McMahan announced that we have 2 offers pending and possibly another in the works. Feedback has been positive – will find out soon.

Report on the Building Project

Bob McMahan reported that the contract has been signed and the design process will re-start the first or second week of April. The department has secured a \$1M donation to the building project to help backstop the department's obligation and other donations are in the works.

John Moore reported that MSC is almost ready for analytical to move over. Pam is planning to start the move in mid-May. Also, the architect is putting together the responses from the 35% design comment period. Many responses to the comments say they will be taken care of in the final design phase. It will be up to the department to double check the completion of these comments.

Climate Task Force Report

Judith Burstyn reported that the Task Force has been meeting, and will meet with the Chemistry Board of Advisers in March concerning climate issues. They are also working on using outlook for record keeping and coordinating along with use of common spaces.

Faculty Senate Report

Judith Burstyn reported that the campus's post-tenure review process was discussed in a last minute meeting and adapted by the committee – it will go back to the Regents for their vote.

Preferential Department Chair Balloting

Pat Egan reported that the preferential department balloting for chair was finished and Judith Burstyn has been selected to fill the role. The recommendation was sent to L&S last week.

Business

Combining Machine and Electrical Shops Proposal from the Shops Committee

Marty Zanni presented a proposal to combine the main and student machine shops together and move the electrical shop into the current student machine shop. This plan will allow for an "instrument maker" shop that will benefit PI's and students. It will create more usable space and is a better use of space.

To make room for the combining the machine shops, seldom used machining equipment will be put into the laser lab. This will be tied into the construction & remodeling activities of the new building and will minimize remodeling costs. The design phase will take a couple months and arranging for physical plant will take several more. The impact on the current shops in this time would be minimal.

The Shops committee forwarded a motion to commit \$80K of department funds to the remodeling of the machine shop to include the electronics and student "instrument maker" shops. (Additional funds will be identified and proposed separately for the remodeling of the laser lab). **The motion was passed on a voice vote with no negatives.**

Proposed Changes to the Chemistry Major

Jeanne Hamers presented a proposal to change verbiage and/or requirements for the undergraduate chemistry major due to the need to update the online catalog and the DARS. Proposed changes are in the attachment labeled "for department" finalized changes are in the attachment "for L&S". The undergraduate curriculum committee forwarded seven motions outlining the changes:

1. Declaring the Chemistry Major: motion was amended to delete the first two sentences of the 2nd paragraph, "Chemistry is a physical science... ..with success in upper level chemistry courses, especially physical chemistry" – amendment passed 11-8. **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives.**
2. Courses accepted towards 5 credits of advanced chemistry: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**

3. Courses accepted towards three additional laboratory credits: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**
4. GPA in the Major: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**
5. Upper level work and GPA requirement: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**
6. Honors in the Major GPA requirement: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**
7. Physical Chemistry Part 1: **Motion to approve the change as amended was passed on a voice vote with no negatives**

Other Business:

Bob McMahon gave a short summary of the new TA raises for the 2017-18 academic year. Campus raised salaries 3.5% and L&S raised salaries 2.5% for select science departments, including chemistry.

With no additional business brought to the Department Committee, the meeting was adjourned after a motion from Randy Goldsmith/Ive Hermans.

April 11, 2017. PKE