Mathematics and Computer Science  
Department Meeting Minutes  
11/15/2013  
Bldg 61-2316


**Absent:** J. Franko, M. Johnson (banked leave), C. Kim, R. Loyd, J. Sholars, V. Tatoian, T. Vo

The meeting was called to order at 2:55 pm.

**Old Business**

1) **October Minutes:** October minutes were approved, with minor revisions.

2) **Update on Math 260 and Math 290:** Scott: due to the normal approval process, getting articulation agreements, etc., the earliest possible start date for these courses would be fall 2015. The Calculus committee was asked to prepare a transition plan to have the roll out ready in time.

**New Business**

0) **Unused Smart Boards: Art:** Jennifer Galbraith has a need for our smart boards for the child development program. She would like two that are being unused, due to the wiring in our current building. Motion to send the two boards to child development passes.

1) **Math 99 Approval:** Art – Math 99 needs dept approval, to offer it as an arranged hours course. Motion to approve Math 99 as an arranged hours course passed by acclamation.

2) **High School Educators Conference:** the meeting was held on short notice; due to a mix up by those arranging the conference, both Math and English were not notified until the week of the conference.
   One issue that came up: HS students need to know what level they’re at, in order to take the appropriate placement test.
   Al – there could be a need for review for students take the placement. We should give the student the benefit of the doubt, and not advise them to take them a lower placement.
   Hugh - all of the placement tests have online examples, so students could look at that.
   Cameron – it seemed that our placement test was being taken out to the HS – is this true?
   Al – one reason that students who place in are doing better than those who matriculate in is possibly because they have placed into a class that is too easy for them.
   Scott – all the community colleges are supposed to be using a common assessment, so I don’t think the scenario we’re concerned about (using the HS definition of college ready) is going to materialize.
3) **Common Core Standards/Smarter Balanced Assessments: Debbie:** – I’d like to start discussing this common core issue and thinking about the impact it will have on us. My biggest concern is this assessment test they take their junior year. I’d like to continue this dialogue online. I’ve heard the courses may be renamed, renumbered, to Integrated Math. Al – I’ve heard they’re offering Algebra II at the junior high. That would be a long time with no algebra. Art – with the Common Core, there are two separate issues – one is changes to the high school curriculum, for example, the area of course re-sequencing, with Integrated Math. Then there are possible changes in the area of assessment, with Smarter Balanced Assessments. Bao-Chi - we may be forced to accept these assessments. Scott – It won’t happen. Debbie – if the high schools are putting energy into cut scores and assessments, should we tell them not to bother?

4) **DSP&S Dialogue: Debbie:** The DSP&S dialogue will be Friday, Dec 6, from 1 to 2:30.

5) **DSP&S Evening Finals: Debbie:** Who is covering evening finals for DSP&S students? Is anyone concerned? Michelle proposed that we all take a shift to proctor a group of people. So think about this. I will make a suggestion to them. Heidi, et al – couldn’t DSP&S extend their hours for finals week?

6) **Study Area Inside the Faculty Office Area: Bao-Chi, Stephen:** The students in the study area talk loudly about non-math topics, using all kinds of language. Debbie – maybe we could laminate something to each table, as a reminder. Heidi – When we built this building, we saw this area as a place students could study and socialize, so I think this area is okay to use for socializing. Suggestion: to post signs on the wall, reminding students to not be too loud. Debbie agreed to write the signs.

7) **Additions to the ITAC Master Plan: Phebe:** ITAC master plan – this involves any future technology plans, for hardware, software, etc. If anyone has any input, let me know. Jeff – could we get some special podiums for our computers?

Reports:

1) **Academic Senate: Paula:** We were 12th on the list for new hires. They’re only planning to hire 9, so we’re not on the list to get someone. There are a couple of committees that could be filled by Math faculty. Also, there is currently a vacancy at the Executive Board level of the AS, which needs to be filled by a senator. Debbie - I'm just frustrated over this new hire situation. The idea of not replacing our retirees and asking us to grow is unreasonable. With Prop 30 passing, wouldn't that support our request to get back to status quo full-time faculty? We were recently e-mailed a long list of administrator positions on this campus and this list appears to be growing while full-time faculty positions are declining. I think the faculty members are being slapped in several ways right now. We are being asked to do more, without compensation, to make up for this loss in full-time faculty positions.
Janet – the rest of the campus is not concerned with the needs of the Math Dept. We have to work with the Deans.

General suggestion: to invite the President and/or the Deans to our next meeting.

Paula - There are 3 things we will be voting on. One of them is that the AS needs to be relied upon for its opinion to determine registration priority. There are also issues pertaining to awards, and who should be admitted to Mt Sac. Please feel free to email us and let us know your opinion.

2) **Faculty Association: Al**

   Al – Negotiation surveys are in your mailbox. Eric Kaljumagi was elected the new VP of the FA. The faculty agreed with us, to keep our dental benefits the same. POTH tickets are on sale. Cesar Chavez scholarship will be posted.

3) **Department Chair’s Report: Art**

   Here are the current minimum qualifications and equivalencies for faculty teaching math and computer science. This list needs to be reviewed annually by the dept. Heidi, et al – we’re happy with the way it is now.

   Everyone who worked on the curriculum updates for Math 110/110H, Math 130, Math 150, and Math 160, please work on the SLOs as well. I apologize for leaving out the CSCI courses from this list – for all CSCI courses updated this year, please collect data on the SLOs as well.

   **Division Report: Art**

   Sabbatical proposals are due Dec 1. Update on faculty requests to fill our positions. Right now the school is planning to hire only nine new full-timers. I will be letting folks know that this is not acceptable, that there are no plans to hire new math faculty. As discussed, both the Associate Dean, and the Dean, as well as the President, will be invited to our next meeting.

   Scott - if the funding has remained constant, but the Faculty Obligation Number has gone down, then they have changed their priorities. Matt – we need to make the argument that Math needs these people, not that we are more important than other departments.

   Scott – I’d like to have a dialogue first, then if no one listens, I’ll think about cutting my class off at 36. Matt – it’s not like there are a lot of part-timers lining up to teach here.

   Debbie – there are only 4 applicants.

Announcements:

1) The retirement party for Joe Franko will be at 2 PM, December 7, at Janet’s house.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm

Submitted by:

Department Chair      Recorder
Art Nitta       Cameron Troxell