

Department meeting, 14 November 2014, 2:30

In attendance: Full time: Malcolm Rickard, Daniel Anderson, Martin Mason, Phil Wolf, Karen Schnurbusch, Vahe Tatoian, Zahir Kahn

Adjunct: Ben Jose, Adam Edwards, , Micheal Cheung

1. Announcements:

Daniel: Maker Com went well

Phil Wolf will apply for sabbatical, (videos for physics) anyone else? Dan and Martin in future.

Martin: Grant app in progress with U of Laverne (Martin) goes to release time.

more on videos.

Phil will send out updates

2. Faculty Association Report

no report

3. Faculty Senate Report

Department not satisfied with the campus faculty request priority list. Since

Physics/Engineering came in at #11 (out of 10) the department will prepare for the possibility of getting a new tenure track position next year.

4. Notes from “chair’s meeting”

a. Faculty positions

More discussion on the priority list

Department discussed the possibility of a member attending the executive board meeting and presenting the concerns. No member volunteered or was elected to do this.

Rumors of the number to be hired actually being as high as 30, in light of the new calculated FON was mentioned. The department is aware that almost every department is suffering from insufficient full time faculty.

b. 99 “labs”

Malcolm relayed the issue that “Physics 99” is listed as a “lecture” while most 99 courses are labs. The department is fully supportive of a 99L option. This sentiment also applies to Engineering 99(L), Physical Science 99(L) etc.

c. Replacing EIWOS

All department members want access to the new system, “SchoolDude”

d. Room usage

Department was informed of the approaching study of room utilization.

Department feels that 30 hours for a typical lab is full utilization, accounting for time between labs to adjust equipment. Malcolm will check on what full utilization is.

On that, the topic of the need for more lab support to accommodate multiple courses in a single room was raised. An adjunct faculty asked if there was a standard for lab support for community colleges.

5. How to help adjuncts?

Possible solutions: 1) invite adjuncts to dept. meetings. 2) course packets and modules. 3) more office space. Use a free classroom if available. 4) Instructor computers in each room/ computer cart. 5) Ben requested an HDMI cable for the projectors.

Current challenges: Many of the adjuncts are teaching courses after hours, they, Adam, particularly, are operating in a void. Also, all adjunct instructors expressed need more lab support

6. Hiring for spring

Department still need 4 physics + 1 engineering instructor

The online application is time consuming and may be deterring some applicants.

Applicants will be encouraged to send resumes directly to the department chair.

7. 4A placement exam

Martin introduced and justified a draft of exam. Most students will fail the exam. Two

issues are raised: 1 do we need placement exam? YES

2 the exams need modified to be more conceptual

Phil and Martin will work on this in winter

Martin will talk to James

8. SPS/Robotics club Events

CSUN approaches in 2 weeks

Vex approaches, last event before FEB

David Hall offers \$200 to club that sells the most Puttin' on the Hits tickets

Ben will present at planetarium

BBQ chez Daniel December 12 3:00pm

9. Curriculum Update

PS 7 & 7L got approved.

Department is dissatisfied with the course not being linked in the schedule and will

cancel the course if this issue is not fixed by the day before registration date

Karen will shuffle schedule so that the instructors for PS 7 are "STAFF"

Other courses keep moving up the list.

10. Parity

Phil expressed his pointed words with Karelyn on Energy science

11. Questions for the first Chairs meeting.

Can the department have another full time Lab Technician in light of the fact that our department has doubled since we've had one full time lab tech?

How can the department get more adjunct office space?

Can the printers in the classrooms be upgraded?

When are the 15 computers going to come?

Can the department get 15 new cameras?

Can the department get transportation and space for UTM

12. Anything else?

material science lab discussed

Zahir relayed admission statistics: Minimum GPA of engineering student transferring to UCB 3.89.

186 out of 2043 applications accepted to UCB

6 out of 40 applications from MtSAC accepted to UCB (we 6 out of 40)

AST four tracks

There is a Universal testing machine available for free but it's large and heavy (4500 lbs)

Someone will need to write materials testing lab

Students needn't retake classes

Martin will also ask about Engineering 8

13. Schedule for our next meeting

Friday, 20 February 2015 11:00 am