

**Mathematics and Computer Science  
Department Meeting Minutes**

10/10/2014  
Room 61-2316

**Present:** D. Beydler, A. Birca, D. Chavez, S. Childress, B. Edwards, C. Graham, H. Griffith, S. Guth, P. Hosea, M. Johnson, S. Lancaster, Jim Long, J. McMullin, M. Munro, B. Nguyen, A. Nitta (Chair), H. Parra, C. Perez, H. Pop, J. Tamayo, J. Terreri, F. Tran, C. Troxell, T. Vo, J. Wakefield, P. Young, S. Zicree

**Absent:** K. Khoddam, C. Kim, A. Kirchgraber (CCA Conference), R. Loyd, V. Tatoian, T. Kojima (on leave), D. Rivers, M. Summers (on leave), J. Sholars (CCA Conference), C. Sun, T. Takashima (on leave)

The meeting began at 2:53.

**Old Business**

- 1) **September 2014 Minutes:** The September minutes were approved by acclamation.

**New Business**

- 0) **Thank you notes from Scholarship Recipients: Michelle:** I'm passing around some thank you notes from our 2014 scholarship winners. They will be posted in our mailroom. Also, if you could sign up to have an automatic withdrawal taken out of your paycheck, such as \$5 or \$10 per month, this would really help fund our student scholarships. Al will send out a reminder in spring, or you can see Al at any time to make a donation.
- 1) **Update Course Outline for CSCI 140: Tuan:** Here is the new outline for CSCI 140, reflecting the updated textbook. The alternative textbook for this class is not being updated. The new outline was approved by acclamation.
- 2) **4-Year Review for Math 71/71A/71B: Jeff:** This course has been updated in Web CMS. The 71 curriculum committee has already approved it. The main change involved some additional sample problems that were posted into Web CMS. Now I'm seeking the department approval. Motion to approve the 4-year review passed by acclamation.
- 3) **Pathways and Bridge Update: Matt:** On the handout it shows the progress the pathways and non-pathways students have made through the whole sequence. Often people pass one level, then don't or can't sign up for the next course in the sequence. For the pathways students, notice the 90% sign-up rate in the subsequent class for those who passed Math 50.

The table for non-pathways students will not be complete until the end of Fall 2014, but based on the observed pass rates, it looks the overall throughput through the sequence will probably be around 10%. This seems to argue for meeting 4 times a week, and for going through with a cohort, i.e., a learning community.

Stephen: What's the endgame? What are the limits?

Matt: We received a donation, but there is still an issue with finding money. And with finding enough faculty interested in participating.

Bao-chi: Is the counseling part of it necessary? Some of my students thought it wasn't worth their while.

Matt: I take that with a grain of salt because the students aren't always aware of the benefits of the linked LCOM course. So I'm not ready to give up on that link. But that doesn't mean we can't try and improve it. One option is to try linking it with a counseling course.

Matt: Here is the sequence of how my students did. Discussion followed. Here is what we are proposing for next summer and fall. Because it begins in summer, you would need to teach in the summer. Please consider participating in this program. I will be on banked leave next fall so there is a big space that will need to be filled. Discussion followed as to whether students in this program are different from students who are not in the program.

- 4) **Math 110S Update: Art:** Some bad news first. It did not get articulation with the UCs. They weren't sure if the prerequisite 70S course was equivalent to our Math 71. But the good news: the course did articulate with Statistics courses offered at our local Cal States. The courses are listed on the sheet here. For example STAT 120 at Cal Poly Pomona. Going into the class, students were only promised that the course will meet area B4 requirements. They got something more than that.
- Jim: Would taking 70S fulfill the Mt Sac graduation requirements?
- Art: At this time they would need to take both 70S and 110S to fulfill this. If you take 70S there is only one way forward and that is 110S. I'll keep you updated on any new developments.

- 5) **Online Education Initiative: Scott:** There's been a push to have community college students be allowed to seamlessly take online classes offered by other colleges. This past spring we volunteered to be one of the schools to pilot this program. Actually, the administration agreed to participate. But the Academic Senate did not, until this past week. The AS did approve it, but we were reluctant to do so, because we were voting on something that has already been decided. This is more evidence that our influence is eroding. What concerns me is that all of these courses are 100% online. You don't have to show up for proctored exams. These courses will have C-ID numbers. So we will have to accept them, as far as I can see. Discussion followed.
- Art: we have applied for C-ID approval for Statistics and the Calc sequence courses.
- Scott: we need to make sure our concerns are addressed.
- Heidi: the Math 140 committee met today and the Math 140 C-ID course is considerably weaker than our course.
- Jim: we already accept courses that satisfy requirements, whether they're online or not.
- Janet: I think we should fight it. We're not for education that's completely online. It's already out there, but that's not the direction we want to take.
- Scott: we, the math department, are the only ones on campus who seem to be raising the issue.

- 6) **Hybrid Math 51 Course: Heidi:** I'm asking your approval for me to develop Math 51 as a hybrid course. I plan to incorporate ALEKS into the course. A lot of our Math 51 students have taken algebra already, and could benefit from this approach.  
After some discussion it was determined that this course would go through the Distance Learning committee to be approved. Motion to approve creation of a hybrid Math 51 passed by acclamation.
- 7) **Assessment Update: David:** Our Level 1 assessment was not approved this year. They said it was unclear what the content review process was. They also questioned the multiple measures process. They said it should be applied to all students not just those who seek multiple measures. We are currently appealing their decision. There is an effort to automate the multiple measures process. Here is a proposed questionnaire that IT plans to put into the portal. What do you think?  
Janet: I think we should cut the number of questions down by at least half.  
Steve: if we could actually get honest answers it would be helpful. But that's not a sure thing by any means. Discussion followed about the efficacy of using these questions.  
Scott: one benefit for automating this would be that we could gather information to see which questions are good predictors, and which are not.  
David: the assessment committee thought that this questionnaire could be filled out soon after the student applies to Mt Sac, not necessarily when they go to take a placement test. If the Level 1 placement test does not get approved, do we think the MDTP be a worthy alternative?  
Stephen: the MDTP was developed by your peers, and is a quality test. Discussion followed.
- David: two more items: Mt Sac was not selected to pilot common assessment; a reminder that the High School Counselor and Faculty Conference will be Friday Dec 5. If you have any questions you'd like to ask the high schools, you can let me or Tannia Robles know.

## Reports

- 1) **ACADEMIC SENATE: Alina:** We can now apply for up to \$1500 per year in travel. There are some taskforce positions available, so please take a look at the AS report.
- 2) **FACULTY ASSOCIATION: Hugh:** FA President Lance Heard announced his resignation. Eric Kaljumagi will be the new President. Joan is one the candidates for the VP position. The negotiations survey will be on the portal. You'll be given 3 weeks to complete it. One issue is interest-based bargaining. This is something the district is moving towards. We have some faculty who are being trained. Lance said we need to vote on this soon, so we need some direction from the dept. Stephen: just let us know if you have opinions; drop us an email. Hugh: we also need direction on which academic calendar: Option A – the way it is now. Option B is a Tues through Fri during winter Option C Make spring start on a Thursday. Take off the last two days of March. The FA already favors Option A.

In a straw vote, the department overwhelmingly chooses Option A.

- 3) **DEPARTMENT CHAIR: Art:** MyMathLab training is on the day of the next dept meeting, from noon to 1:30.

The Division offered information on how to best apply for lab parity, but Horia and Tuan have already been doing a great job of getting lab parity for the CSCI courses.

For the new faculty requests, the rankings are being done by AMAC. We look good to get one position, but we are going to have to push for two. We did request four faculty positions. Three replacement positions and one growth position.

Regarding growth for winter and spring, people have been doing a great job of picking up classes. If you do want to pick up an extra class for winter or spring 2015, let me know. Also, please consider teaching in the special programs.

**Announcements:**

- 1) **Heidi:** let Debbie know if there's anything you want DSPS to be aware of. Or something we need to discuss as a department.
- 2) **Heidi:** Dream sheets will be going out soon, so think about what you want for your Fall 2015 schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm

Submitted by:

Department Chair  
Art Nitta

Recorder  
Cameron Troxell