

Mathematics and Computer Science

Department Meeting Minutes

12/05/2014

MARC

Present: D. Beydler, A. Birca, D. Chavez, S. Childress, B. Edwards, C. Graham, H. Griffith, S. Guth, P. Hosea, M. Johnson, K. Khoddam, C. Kim, A. Kirchgraber, S. Lancaster, J. McMullin, M. Munro, B. Nguyen, A. Nitta (Chair), H. Parra, C. Perez, H. Pop, J. Sholars, C. Sun, J. Tamayo, V. Tatoian, J. Terreri, F. Tran, C. Troxell, J. Wakefield, P. Young, S. Zicree

Absent: R. Loyd, T. Kojima (on leave), M. Summers (on leave), T. Takashima (on leave), D. Rivers, T. Vo

The meeting began at 2:59.

Old Business

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

New Business

- 1) **Update Course Outline for Math 50:** Al: We added conversion of American units. We removed section 8.5 – percent problems involving simple interest. There are some new notes at the bottom. We just need approval for this curriculum change. Department approved the new outline by acclamation.
- 2) **Math 260/Math 290 course update:** Scott: We approved Math 280 – it's already gone through ed design. But 260 and 290 are still sitting in stage 5, because these would change the unit count for Math AS-T degree. These courses will not be approved until the degree is approved. Having 260 and 290 in the degree would put us over 60 units. The word is they're not approving any degree over 60 units. So ours will have to get down to 60 units. There is some negotiation room. Our unit count is way under PCC's. Theirs says a total of 60, but it adds up to more than 60. I'm reluctant to put in the 110S. It will go in with the electives. But we'd still be at 61 units. The only thing we can eliminate is an elective course. But that creates other issues. Heidi: can you negotiate with the chancellor's office? Scott: it's worth a try. Some of the heavy hitters here could help with the negotiations.
Scott: the other huge problem is with engineering. They're threatening to create their own differential equations class.
Janet: I think the math GE units are being double counted. Ask Jemma to look into that.
Scott: okay I will.

- 2) **Improved tutor recommendation process: Steve:** When students come to me to ask me for a recommendation to be a tutor, right now they just hand me a form and I have to hand it back to them. I would prefer the system be set up in a more confidential manner, so it wouldn't pass through the student's hands along the way. Perhaps an automated system like the Common Application process.

Hugh: I can't tell what kind of tutor someone will be. All I have is the grade they got in my class.

Matt M: Your recommendation isn't the only "hoop" the student has to jump through for the application process. They have an interview and training. I actually suggest to my students, based on classroom observations, that they should think about being a tutor.

Scott: talk to Bailey and see what she says. If the dept has said they're behind this request to look into modifying the process, that will mean something.

Art: I will talk to Bailey or John to see if we can get the application form modified.

- 4) **Report from Counseling: Jim Smith:** We will have a new computer lab. We will be hiring two new tenure track faculty members.

Art: The school would like to have an ongoing dialogue with the local high school math teachers. Audrey is trying to set up a regular meeting for Mt Sac and high school faculty to come together. Once a meeting date is established, she will let us know. If you can volunteer your time and meet with them, let Audrey know.

- 5) **Math 140 C-ID Decision: Heidi:** the decision of our committee is to not accept the C-ID. It looks like we're in line with most other schools in doing this.

Joan: I think we need to keep track of what math courses are being offered by other depts. We have to take a stand with them, that this is our curriculum. We have to join our voices and be heard.

Heidi: we have to put our heads together and have a strong argument as to why we're covering topics that aren't on the C-ID list. Like multivariable topics.

Scott: in the big picture, we are being put into a straitjacket. The transfer curriculum is being driven by the CSUs. If it doesn't include certain topics, then those colleges are okay with it. Discussion followed about what might happen, if other departments want to have math curricula in their programs.

Matt: I can see a potential downside for not accepting the C-ID, if say the business program wants to have us teach a course in their AS-T program. But I don't see any downside for accepting it.

Heidi: I'm concerned that by accepting it we might be lowering our standards. But since there's no clear consensus on this, let's table it for now, and look into it some more.

- 6) **Schedule request patterns: Heidi:** I wanted to inform you that Chuck will not be teaching after Fall 2015. He has been teaching the online Math 140 and the online Math 150. I'm not as interested in teaching them online myself. If you feel these classes should continue as an online classes, let me know. If not, we will just put them back as face-to-face classes.

Also, it seems our night volunteers have dwindled, so please consider teaching nights. In addition, very few people are checking “like” or “okay with” Math 71X and Math 110S. Maybe we could broaden our choices, especially if we’re not close to retirement.

Scott: I think we need some staff development for Math 71X and 110S. There are workshops offered for Statway. You really learn a lot – it’s all research-based. For example, there’s a Statway workshop offered this summer in San Francisco.

- 7) **Automated Multiple Measures Criteria: David:** At the last meeting we decided on an automated process for the multiple measure questionnaire. Special thanks to Matt, Paula, and Scot for working on the task force. About the form, we will take whatever hours the students will be spending outside their schooling, including work and family responsibilities, divide by 10 and subtract that from their score. Discussion followed about adjusting the point values for certain items. Matt: we just need a starting place to begin gathering data. After more discussion the department voted to approve the scoring rubric for the survey.
- 8) **Elections for the FT Faculty Hiring Team: Art:** here are the nominees for the hiring team for this spring. There are five: Kambiz, Phebe, Christine, Jimmy, and Cameron. Please vote for three. After voting was held, Kambiz, Phebe, and Jimmy were elected to the hiring team.

Reports

- 1) **ACADEMIC SENATE: Joan:** Here is a handout. Please volunteer for the committee positions that are available. Too many decisions are being made on this campus based on money. When President Scroggins issues a report, we all need to read it, and even comment on it. Give him feedback. Get involved on a committee, a task force. Also, about the calendar: we voted on the calendar, but the administration came back and wanted to change it by moving things up a week, so they can count summer session in either fiscal year. It’s not based on academic considerations. We’re trying to take a stand on it. Al: the CCA winter conference is taking place the weekend before the spring semester. There’s going to be training in interest-based bargaining. There are often extra spaces available for people to attend. Let Eric or Lance know if you’re interested.
- 2) **FACULTY ASSOCIATION: Alina:** please see the attached report.
- 3) **DEPARTMENT CHAIR: Art:** Regarding 2015-2016 do we have interested parties who would be department AS reps? If your schedule needs adjusting we can make that happen. Scot said yes. Linda Chan said she was willing, if Melody doesn’t want to. How about FA? Hugh, Alina, and Stephen said they would willing to be FA reps.
Scott: my term on the AS exec board will be up at the end of this academic year, so I will make myself open as a dept rep if I don’t continue with the exec board.
Joan: I would like to find a one-semester replacement in spring 2015 for myself an AS rep, since I’m on the exec committee.

Announcements:

1. Janet: I was wondering if someone would be interested in designing a logo for super Pi day. David – I'll see if I can do something.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm

Submitted by:

Department Chair
Art Nitta

Recorder
Cameron Troxell