

Tuesday, April 03, 2007  
12:10-12:50

## Division Meeting Items

Some items for discussion today include:

- Focus on High Risk Courses this year, all courses in the coming 12 to 18 months.

We will be updating and revising syllabi. We will be dealing with IR&E and with QEP, but beyond that, we will look at all the College programs across all courses. We will keep focusing on specific SLO's as selected by the faculty yourselves.

- Promoting Summer School attendance in the face of the mini-semester and no guaranteed sections  
We need to make our current students aware of the options. Please circulate the list of science courses we offer.

- Budget Issues to consider

Please make me a one or more sentence justification to help our chances of getting the items you are seeking. I appreciate Michael Dalman's putting items in order of priorities.

- Need for new biology faculty

We need to replace Colleen. Let's plan to take her lunch on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> to Volare's or Guadalajara, for example.

- Student Perception Surveys (Post vs Pre) Due:

In the future we are hoping to limit these to a random sample.

- SEOI for some courses this semester
- Mainly Part time instructors

Greg Phillips mentioned the need for input at they plan to update and upgrade the next edition of the Biology 1406 lab manual. Some color plates are possible. Some diagrams and other images may need to be replaced.

He is excited about the idea of using Jesse Wied's specimens to photograph and make available to educators, researchers, and students on-line. Dr. Voelter is excited about this also.

Greg is planning a meeting of the biology faculty to discuss the SLO's and syllabi on graduation day if that works for most people. They need to be planning for next fall and be in harmony about what they will be doing.

Jason Bontrager, our science liaison with the library, has a background in geology. He welcomes our requests for acquiring materials for our classes. He indicated that we could suggest some useful DVDs from catalogs. He does not get the same ads and info as we do. We can circle items and send him a copy with our requests. We encouraged him to keep seeking to simplify the use of science journals as links on our web page. I gave him my short list of chemistry journals he could create links to, in addition to the very generic links to all journals in the library. He wants the biology faculty to follow through in the same way. Ms. Taylor spoke with him afterwards.

I determined from Melinda Horan that she is explicitly inviting the whole division to attend the presentation on Thursday at lunch time in C-8 as well. Greg has seen a two hour presentation of the Campbell book in Bryan. He likes it because it is less busy, and one of the Bryan faculty felt that Raven involved sensory overload also.

**Free software for your home use includes:**

- Spyware and malware protection: Adaware  
<http://www.adawareresource.com/co/adawareresource/?sid=M2AG0001eGS>
- Office Suite: Open Office [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)
- [AVG Anti-Virus by Grisoft](http://www.grisoft.com) [www.Grisoft.com](http://www.grisoft.com) Trusted by over 30 million users!  
Official Site. Free 24/7 support.

Do you have useful web sites to share? Recall that we have Tutorials for the biology, chemistry, geology and physics courses at the division web page. Let Greg Phillips know if you find an outstanding site to share.

If you are planning on getting a Laptop, Dell offers us a 4% discount on top of other deals. Seek shipping paid, if possible. Don't get it at a computer store as it may be several weeks old and an off brand. Advice: Spend a little extra to get a faster processor, more memory, bigger hard drive. This will extend the life of your laptop. Keep checking the Dell web site for deals a couple of weeks before buying. You could get a free upgrade, for instance. Many people buy a cheap computer, but then expect it to do everything they want. It is an important investment that should be seen as such. If you are willing to pay a little more now, it will save money in the long run. —Advice from Adam Lewer