Science and Math Liaison Meeting

Dec. 12, 2016

Present: Dana Dudle, Mary Kertzman, Pam Propsom, Jackie Roberts, Maria Schwartzman, Fred Soster, Brian Wright

Review of IUSE Curricular Reform Award applications. We received four applications for the first round of IUSE Curricular Reform Awards. After discussion, we decided to grant:

--Gloria Townsend (CS0)

--Christina Wagner and Ted Bitner (Psy 100 with lab)

--Jeff Hansen and Selma Poturovic (Chem 120)

Because Dan Rusu’s proposal did not meet the application guidelines (the proposed course had multiple prerequisites and was not an introductory course designed to meet the SM requirement), we did not fund his application, but will encourage him to think about an alternative course and reapply.

We also decided to fund another round of applications during the Spring 2017 semester. Jackie and Pam will send a call for this next round and will inform Fall 2016 recipients of their awards.

Brown Bags. Topics for Spring semester SM Brown Bags lunches include:

--Faculty-Student Summer Research. We have already had one discussion regarding challenges to faculty-student summer research and identified some suggested solutions or at least topics for further discussion. We would like to share the notes from that meeting with the VPAA, Dean of Faculty, Faculty Development Committee, and the Director of the Science Research Fellows Program, inviting them to a joint discussion.

--Potential changes to the SM general education requirement. Some have suggested that we advocate for re-installing the lab component of the SM requirement, but before we do so, we need to know if division members generally support this move. We would need to discuss what our goals are for having a lab requirement, what we mean by a “lab course,” and if we want to argue for giving students additional academic credit (e.g., .25) for labs. Some would like to push for an even larger change to the SM requirement, from the current two courses to three courses: one in the physical sciences, one in the biological and behavioral sciences, and one in mathematics and computation (might this be coordinated with the Q requirement?).

Additional issues.

--Students cannot be both SRF and Bonner Scholars. This seems to be limiting. We would like to talk with Dan Gurnon (SRF) and Doug Harms (Bonner) about this.

--The division needs to officially adopt the SM Learning Goals (and perhaps develop a third goal for math/computation).