

A meeting of the Ordinary faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences was called to order at 12:33 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 in MO 451 by Dr. Don Hauber.

- I. Minutes were approved for the November 15th meeting.
- II. Faculty present: Anderson, Barnes, Barrilleaux, Beard, Bucolo, Dorn, ~~Gauthier~~, Hauber, Hood, Jordan, Mix, Thomas, ~~Tobler~~, ~~Wee~~, ~~White~~, Wolfe
- III. DSAC representatives: Michael Pashkevich and Kristina Gambino
- IV. Announcements
 - A. Research seminars: Three seminars have been booked already. The first will be held on January 24th. (Kim)
 - B. Health Career Seminars: Working on the schedule and room reservations. (Tish)
 - C. Spring/Summer schedule: Don made a couple of changes with a few additions. There is no need to hire for Investigating Nature. (Don)
 - D. Deans Advisory Council: The web team will be redoing the university website aligning the design with the new branding. Plan to keep using Drupal. The launch will be in approximately 18 months. Disability Services attended a workshop on ODS training and is working toward making accommodations. The more significant one is for the hearing impaired where a faculty member would need to come up with an audio module. At this time, we can't accommodate the visually impaired. When students get diagnosed with LD mid-semester, the instructor should do his/her "best" to accommodate. When students are diagnosed previously but go to faculty late, the onus is no longer on the faculty member to comply. The students need to do their part and notify Disability Services in advance. The University didn't know that we are a CLEP Score school. We need to have a conversation about looking at the information on the tests of multiple courses. The Board of Trustees approved the University working on the budget with a 1 ½ - 2% increase in tuition. No school fees are to be increased except for Sodexo. No increases for faculty or staff next year ('17-'18).
 - E. URS: The date for the URS is April 21st and will be held in Miller 114. (Jim)
 - F. Faculty Search: Don hasn't heard anything about new hires.
 - G. Don and Julie will host a party on December 9th for Dave, Jim and Julie. (Don)
 - H. The Biology Department Christmas lunch will be on December 12th at Deanie's leaving campus at 12:00 p.m. (Don)
 - I. BioInquiry and Environmental Foundations will have a poster presentation on December 8th on the 4th floor at 12:30. (Aimee')
- V. Old Business
 - A. Tracks: We agreed on having tracks but need to decide which ones we want. We need to offer tracks from a marketing standpoint because we're losing students who think we don't have "programs" that they are looking for. The thing that matters with marketing is that the track must have an acronym. (Craig) We don't have to call it tracks and can keep it informal by showing guidelines. (Tish) We currently have two tracks including teaching. (Don) Should not have to rely on students needing to take off campus courses

where there is no control. Tracks vs. distribution – we should include a distribution requirement where the students must take at least one course from another track. (Paul) We don't have any distribution requirement now. (Patricia) If you force distribution, students will not be able to take all the courses they think they need. (Kristina) Require students to take at least three Bio electives listed for a given track. A motion was made by Don to accept all of the tracks that are listed on the handout including teaching which would make a total of six. Aimee' seconded the motion. We could offer a degree with an emphasis in a certain area. (Phil) There is a concern with Marine Biology. (Patricia) It could be offered as experimental. If students come, then there's a demand for it, so we develop what is needed. (Frank) Most other schools have distribution requirements where two of the five must come from another area. (Craig) Students want flexibility. (Patricia) The motion to accept all six tracks passed with 7 "in favor", 2 "against", and 1 abstention. (include spreadsheet with minutes)

B. Michael Pashkevich summarized the results of the survey sent out to Biology Majors.

The results showed that most respondents would take advantage of a space multiple times a week for studying and socializing.

C. Don stated that there is not to be extracurricular activities in the teaching labs. At the very least, students and faculty wishing to use the labs should clear with Anne.

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.