

A regular meeting of the Department of Biological Sciences was called to order at 12:32 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016 in MO 451 by Dr. Don Hauber.

- I. Faculty/Staff: Anderson, Barnes, Barrilleaux, Beard, Bucolo, ~~Don~~, Gauthier, Hauber, Hood, Jordan, ~~Mix~~, ~~Sullivan~~, Thomas, ~~Tobler~~, Wee, White, Wolfe
- II. DSAC representatives: Gabrielle Espiritu
- III. Approval of minutes from previous department meetings:
  - A. Minutes approved from 4/5/2016 with one abstention.
- IV. Announcements and FYI
  - A. Dave agreed to line up speakers for the fall Biology Research Seminar series once he receives the dates.
  - B. We can make an appeal for BioInquiry. (Don) Can we obtain surveys from the students and faculty regarding BioInquiry and Cells and Heredity? (Rosalie) Pre-course and post-course surveys were done in the fall for BioInquiry, and a pre-course one has been done this spring. A post-course survey will be conducted, as well, and more questions can be added. Aimee and Kim are looking for feedback in a formal way. (Kim)
  - C. The Council of Chairs met on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Brad Petitfils provided real data for Biology which shows the “graduate %” for those students who graduate in the major they started with, not Loyola graduation. (Don) There is a need to help them with advising. (Tish) Regarding the data “graduated within four years” doesn’t include transfers from other schools. (Craig) Were these GPA’s molded into one formula? (Jim) “4.0” vs. “5.0” – AP credits. (Craig) This affects how you see the data. (Jim) It was noted that the number is low for those graduating in four years. (Paul)  
The Council discussed drug use and that faculty should be aware that heroin is readily available on campus. (Don) It is available in the dorms, and the perception is that the University is not doing enough. The seniors want to donate money so the university can hire additional help. (Craig) Twenty-four hour counseling is available. There is a need for us to be more aware, and this should be advertised more. (Don)
  - D. Uriel suggested adding first year students to SIS before the June 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. We should ask what they did well in during high school and help them with their schedules. A survey was sent out and Chairs will be on call as survey results come in. (Don)
  - E. There are six summer counselors mentoring 100 students to adjust more easily. (Don)
  - F. The Tribeta Induction ceremony will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 with a social following at the Hauber’s afterward. All are welcome to attend. (Don)
  - G. Computer Survey: IT is conducting a computer inventory via email across campus to assist them when serving computers. Everyone needs to log onto the link via email from each computer and conduct the very quick survey. (Don)  
Poster Printing: It costs approximately \$8-10/poster for the supplies as there has been a request from other departments to obtain what it will cost them to use it. (Don) Tech Fees or the college should pay for the supplies. (Frank) Brett agreed to a new printer, but we haven’t needed one yet. (Don)

Student Success: Faculty are being asked to proctor in the Student Success Center for students who need more time. It was suggested that the administration should proctor. Fr. Wilde offered money to hire someone else. (Rosalie)

#### V. Old Business

- A. Fall Advising: Chem I recitation is experimentally being offered in the fall. (Don) There are students taking Chem I now, but Chem II is not offered in the fall which means they take an accelerated class in the summer or wait a year. If she had known, she wouldn't have advised students to take Chem I this spring. Amelia and Lyle indicated they don't have the manpower. (Rosalie) Will they have the manpower for recitation? We're doing the same thing with Cells and Heredity. (Frank) There are 30 students registered for Chem I this summer. (Craig) Discussion ensued about the department making a statement of concern. If there is a group of students who take Cells and Heredity and Chem I/Chem II, is it possible to evaluate the need. If so, have the students address the administration. (Jim) There is a rule that students in Gen Chem must make a C or better in order to get into Organic Chem I. We could/should do that in our Bio courses. (Craig) We have students taking advanced courses that have not taken all of their CORE courses. (Don) Tish and Rosalie had this stipulation removed for their courses. The students don't need that to take Histology. (Rosalie) If you don't make it the permission of the professor/instructor, you could have a freshman take an advanced class. (Frank) Officially this needs to go through the Curriculum Committee. Should the department or the professor/instructor make the decision? (Don) When looking at data from other schools, look at the tracks and see the core courses. This is a piece of it. (Craig) There are pre-requisites for Microbiology. (Julie) In some way, we all suffer with our courses because students have different levels of maturity and growth. (Dave) Our policy states that all students must take the core courses before taking advanced ones except when agreed upon by an instructor. (Don) If it's a Bio Major they should take the CORE, but if a Non-Bio Major, the student should be able to. (Frank) A motion was made by Frank that from now on only Non-Bio Majors can take advanced courses with the permission of the instructor. It was seconded by Paul. A vote was taken and failed with 3 in favor and 6 opposed. (3 meeting participants had left prior to the motion and vote)
- B. Tracks in the major: Don and Kim attended a meeting regarding a neuroscience track. They discussed it would require adjunct faculty and that we would need a true neuroscience course. Psychology doesn't require a biology course. We should have a neuroscience common course but not offer it as a major. (Craig) We could allow the students to take one but not two or then it would be considered a general elective. (Don) Beth teaches intro and couldn't imagine her students taking it without having taken Gen Chem. We should have a neuroscience course and partner with Tulane. We're missing out on students who are taking these courses elsewhere.

#### VI. Committees

- A. Curriculum & Assessment Committee: No report.  
B. Equipment & Space Committee: No report.

#### VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:	R. Wolfe
Approved by:	D. Hauber