Agenda PENS Meeting January 15, 2008, 2:00 PM CS 101 with Minutes and Comments added by J Loter


- Announcements and Reminders
  - Eugene Billiot now Director of Faculty Renaissance Center (50% Work Load)
  - Introduction of Super Adjuncts
    - Dr. Yves Coeckelenbergh - Chemistry
    - Dr. James Garrison - Geology
  - It was announced at the August meeting that a new instrumentation specialist will be hired to support PENS and LSCI and to manage the biotechnology "Core" facility in the CS building. This position has not yet been filled.
  - The position description for the PENS lab coordinator (Tom Tyler's replacement) has been posted. A screening committee will be needed.
    - Melissa Griffith, BS CHEM/MATH Dec 2006, has been hired as a temp replacement
  - Faculty Schedules including office hours posted on office doors
  - Copies of Schedules to Estela and Nicole in the HRI building as appropriate
  - Travel Requests submitted to Chair
Start thinking about HEF requests in case there is a second round
IT requests should be routed through Pat Larkin
Recently Posted New Spring 2008 Final Exam Schedule
Link to SAIL
  - Is your syllabus correct?
Summer and Fall 2008 Course Schedules
  - Data Entry Deadline is March 9
  - Schedule Available on SAIL March 17
  - Registration Begins April 7

- PENS P&T Spring Assignments - Feri Billiot
  - Develop Departmental Guidelines for College Handbook
  - Conduct Mid-Term Review of Jack Southard after March 3

- Task Force for New Degree Program in Atmospheric Sciences:
  - Mestas-Nunez, Tissot, Benson, Bill Vessey, 2 local National Weather Service Scientists

- New Course Proposals: All of the courses described in the following three links were approved by vote of departmental faculty.
  - Geology: New Grad & UG GEOL Courses
  - ESCI & CMSS: New Grad ESCI & CMSS Courses
  - Chemistry: New Intro Course 1305 for Non-Science Majors
  - ASTR: Change of ASTR 1311 to 4 hour class ASTR 1411?

- Discussion Item: Faculty Handbook - P&T Procedure Revised Section Selected Pages 13-18 There was considerable discussion about this with most concerned with the merits and values of the required external reviewer process. At one point Dr. Gibeaut was questioned and he confirmed that such a process was common at schools such as UT (Austin). The discussion was a valuable exchange of opinions as faculty prepared to eventually vote on the document.

- Discussion Item: BAAS (Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences) Degree Information: The full proposal for the
Some additional background information on the two tracks being offered is at the following link: BAAS Proposal. The pros and cons of this degree were also discussed. Later Dr. MacDonald sought input by email for his vote in the Faculty Senate. In a later email he explained why he voted for this proposal in the Senate.

- Faculty Senate Reports - Tim Causgrove and Ian MacDonald
  Both made brief presentations.

  reported that the search was going well and there was a good applicant pool.

- Annual Evaluations
  This was a brief reminder about the timing and process.

- Goal Setting Update:
  There was not time to go into details. The goal setting meetings by the chemistry faculty, the physics faculty, and the geology faculty were mentioned.

- Chair's Personal Update:
  I informed the faculty that my wife might begin kidney dialysis during the spring term which might require me to be off campus more than usual.

- New Business
  No time remained for new business.