ESCI Faculty Meeting  
Feb. 13, 2009

Meeting Minutes


Call to order: 12:05 pm by Smith-Engle

Assessment Plans/Reports. Smith-Engle reviewed 2006-07 ESCI-BS program assessment measures and data, then presented the 2007-08 ESCI-BS Program Assessment Report. The faculty discussed details of the 2007-08 measures, outcomes, and action plans. On motion by Jensen and second by McLaughlin, the faculty voted unanimously to approve the 2007-08 action plan, and to accept the report.

Smith-Engle reviewed 2006-07 ESCI-MS program assessment measures and data, then presented the 2007-08 ESCI-BS Program Assessment Report. The faculty discussed details of the 2007-08 measures, outcomes, and action plans. On motion by Mestas and second by Gibeaut, the faculty voted unanimously to approve the 2007-08 action plan, and to accept the report.

ESCI Graduate Admissions. Smith-Engle presented a list of students accepted to the ESCI-MS program for the Fall 08, Spring 09 and Fall 09 semesters. She noted few TAMUCC graduates had applied to the ESCI-MS program in the past year and urged recruitment of additional graduate students from among graduating ESCI-BS seniors.

Summer/Fall 09 Course Offerings. Smith-Engle presented draft versions of the Summer and Fall 2009 ESCI course schedules. She encouraged ESCI faculty to consider offering graduate electives in Summer 2009, particularly courses appealing to a broad audience, such as GIS applications. She stressed the importance of assigning ESCI 1401 and 1402 to those faculty members best able to relate to introductory level students, to ensure continued recruitment of majors from those courses. She noted that due to increasing dedication of tenure-track faculty to the CMSS program and other duties, it was sometimes challenging to find appropriate faculty members to teach all required ESCI courses.

Update on BS and MS Programs. Smith-Engle noted that the BS and MS programs had flat enrollment in recent years, but students were reacting favorably to major curriculum changes instituted in both programs over the past two years and it looked like enrollment, at least in the ESCI-BS program, was increasing again. She noted that the ESCI-MS Program Review was in its third year, with its completion delayed for various reasons. As a continuation of the Assessment Report discussion, Tissot commented that with the creation of a new CHEM department, the strength of the PENS Department will rest solely with the GEOL, ESCI and CMSS programs, and growth of the ESCI program will be critical to growth of the PENS department as a whole. He noted the Assessment Report cited a possible need to hire an additional ESCI faculty member in several years, and commented that this might be a faculty member (perhaps an instructor) specifically focused on first-year students, with field experience,
to enrich recruiting of majors from introductory courses. He also noted that since the Assessment Reports suggested a negative impact on the ESCI program in general due to decreased involvement of LSCI faculty, there might be a possible future need to hire an ecologist within PENS to support the ESCI program, to ensure the program maintained continued breadth and to satisfy its need for ecological expertise.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.