

Western Oregon University
Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Memorandum

From: Steve Taylor, Chair
To: Division Faculty and Staff
Date: December 5, 2012
RE: December 2012 Business / Pending Action List

Colleagues:

In lieu of our monthly division meeting, please see below for a compilation of old business, new business and other related action items for when we return after winter break. Note, I will be traveling from December 13 to January 3, and the university is closed the week of Dec. 24. Templeton and Dutton will serve as signatories in my absence / checking the “in-box” in NS104 as needed.

Best wishes for happy holidays with family and friends, s.t.

I. OLD BUSINESS

- Applied Baccalaureate preliminary comments due to Dean Scheck by December 13 (as per email dated Nov. 27, 2012); additional division input on the AB topic will occur through the Academic Requirements Committee, Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate in winter and spring terms.
- ARC Diversity Guidelines – comment and review period still in process at the committee level, Jeff Templeton representing NSM Division.
- Faculty Development and division travel supplements have been allocated for fall term. All proposals from the division were funded at a significant and equitable level. Another round of travel proposals will be reviewed in spring term. Thanks to the department chairs for their service in problem solving the budget allocation, good team work.
- Class scheduling for summer 2013 mostly complete, spring 2013 corrections in process, 2013-2014 schedules in process; department schedulers are working on it. Spring corrections to Niki by Dec. 17, 2013-14 schedule to Niki by Jan. 14. Thanks to all for work on the scheduling logistics, it’s an ongoing chore to keep it moving forward in the system we have to work with.
- Sabbatical requests due to Dean by Dec. 17, 2012; copy to division chair.
- AIC remodeling proposals: NS204 / Biology smart-lab proposal was ranked as the #2 recommendation for funding by AIC. Follow-up administrative action pending. AIC round 2 equipment proposals: will be due early in winter term.
- DeVolder Family Science Center Update: project on schedule, structural steel near completion, upper story floors will be poured in coming weeks, exterior finish upgraded from manufactured concrete product to brick due to cost savings. Project in budget and moving forward.
- China 2+2 Biology proposal: department is in process of finalizing a response to the Dean. They are in the process of developing a prescriptive model that will accommodate

the potential for Chinese students to engage the curriculum, while minimizing logistical impacts to the greater program goals.

- NWCCU accreditation process: the Dean mentioned last week that the spring exercise will not involve a campus visit, but conducted via web dissemination. As discussed at last division meeting, Taylor is bird-dogging this situation and has compiled all available departmental materials, reports, SWOT analyses, etc. More information as the story unfolds.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- NS016 upgrade: the old, narrow desks in NS016 will be replaced with elongated table-chair configuration over winter break. ADA and fire code requirements will reduce the currently over-stocked 35 seats to ~25-28 seats. Moveable tables will allow more creative use of the room, to move them into group configurations for project-style work, or arrange in linear fashion for traditional lecture mode. Niki has checked the room use history and contacted the relevant stakeholders to inform them of the seating change. Any NSM classes over the new seat capacity will be able to reschedule into NS122, based on historic data.
- Next Generation Science Standards review: there is a national state-driven project to unify and update science standards at the national level. Oregon Dept. of Ed. has been involved as a “core member” over the past year or so. The third and final draft of the standards will be released in January, and open for a 3-week public review period. The new standards are largely in line with the existing Oregon State Standards, which were updated a couple years ago. I will send out a call for comments when the next draft is released through the Oregon Dept. of Ed. More later for comment opportunities in January. The web site is: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>
- Multiple course sequence catalog descriptions / update: The Associate Provost and Registrar are asking departments to review their course sequence catalog descriptions. There is an issue with multiple-course sequences that have a generalized catalog description, without any details on the content of each course in the sequence. The registrar is running into logistical difficulties articulating transfer credits, so there may be a move to separate out more detailed content descriptions for each course in a sequence. More on this in January, the Dean sent out a heads up on the issue last week. For now, we’ll let it rest until there is more direction from the administration, heads up only at this point.

III. OTHER ACTION ITEMS ON THE HORIZON

- Niki replacement search in spring term.
- Updated budget, S&S and new staffing requests for FY2013-2014 to accommodate the new science building
- Spring term activities to start packing supplies and instruments for move to new science building in early summer
- Summer move of chemistry and Bio A&P to new building
- Summer/Fall 2013 shuffling and realignment of Earth & Physical Science and Biology into vacated space in old NS Building