Minutes - Mar 9, 2015 - CSM Senate Meeting

Date: Monday, March 9th, 2015
Time: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Location: CSM Dean's Office Conference Room

Members in attendance:
Catalin Zara, Mathematics, Chair
Chandra Yelleswarapu, Physics, Secretary
Michelle Foster, Chemistry
Juanita Urban-Rich, SFE
Ping Chen, Engineering
Robert Stevenson, Biology
Wei Ding, Computer Science

Members absent:
Manickam Sugumaran, Biology

Others in attendance:
Andrew Grosovsky, Dean, CSM

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Approval of the February 23, 2015 meeting minutes.
   A motion to approve the February 23, 2015 meeting minutes was seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Announcements
   None.

3. New business
      Motion: To pre-approve the revision of BIOL 349 - Methods in Ethology. Changes in title, credits, description, and pre-requisites.
      Rationale: (1) Rename lab so that it is more obviously associated with Biol 348: Animal Behavior and to more accurately reflect the more pervasive use of 'animal behavior' vs. 'ethology' (they are synonyms) in the contemporary scientific literature. (2) Adjust the credits earned from 3 to 1 to be consistent with other laboratory courses offered in the department that complement an existing lecture (in this case, Biol 348) rather than stand alone as an independent laboratory, as the three credit version of this lab once did. (3) Update the course catalog description to more accurately convey the activities of the lab. (4) Change the corequisite of Biol 348 to a co- or prerequisite to permit students who enrolled in recent editions of Biol 348 during which this lab was not offered to take the course.
      A motion to pre-approve the revision of BIOL 349 was seconded and approved unanimously. The proposal will be sent to the Academic Affairs Committee.

3b. Revision of CHEM-PhD program - addition of Chemistry Education Research track.
      Motion: To approve the addition of the Chemistry Education Research track as a new track in the Chemistry Ph.D. program.
Rationale: The Chemistry Department currently offers five tracks in the Ph.D. degree program: green chemistry, organic chemistry, biological chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and physical/analytical chemistry. The American Chemical Society has issued a statement indicating that it considers chemistry education research to be a subfield of chemistry, the National Academies of Science have issued a report on discipline-based educational research that identifies chemistry education research as a growing and necessary subfield of chemistry, several studies have been published on the state of chemistry education research as a subfield of chemistry, and at least 26 universities in the US currently offer chemistry Ph.D. programs in which students are able to specialize in chemistry education research, including some near peer institutions of UMass Boston such as University of New Hampshire, University of Montana and University of Northern Colorado, as well as several "Research-I" institutions, such as University of Arizona, Purdue University, University of Kansas, and University of Georgia.

The CSM senate recognizes the academic value of the new track in the Chemistry Ph.D. Program. A motion to approve the addition of Chemistry Education Research track in the Chemistry PhD program was seconded and approved unanimously. It will be sent to CSM Dean's office.

4. Other business.
   None.

5. Adjourn.
   A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.