

Chemistry Cluster Meeting

19 October 2011

Minutes

Members Present: Chow, E., Judd, C., Gorgevska, A., Gupta, S., Ramos, C. Sellers, T., Shreve, R.

Item 1: Each cluster must reflect on the round table discussions and indicate the three best/most useful ideas heard at the round tables.

The cluster agreed that the ideas were 1)relate problems to the “real world” 2)give the answer and have the students generate the question, and 3) run labs geared to answer “why” not just “what.”

Item 2: The cluster was updated by Prof’s Gupta and Gorgesvka about the search for full-time chemistry instructors at LW and PBG campuses.

Item 3: The cluster discussed a revised text adoption schedule and approved the one suggested by the cluster chair. (See below)

Item 4: The question was raised as to whether safety glasses (including side shielding) are comparable to the safety goggles currently required by cluster policy. It was agreed that Dr. Gorgesvka would inquire from the Safety department at PBSC and other sources would be consulted. The data/responses will be presented to the cluster at the PDD meeting in March 2012. The cluster will review the policy at that time with a view toward adopting the safety glasses.

Item 5: It was asked that a clarification be made about text book adoption for sequential courses. It is the policy of the college to phase in text adoptions for sequential courses. This is so students in the second half of a sequential course will not have the financial obligation to buy another two semester text as these are prohibitively expensive.

Item 6: Two proposals from Hayden-McNeil Publishing were brought to the cluster in regards to a custom lab manual for general 1 and 2 labs. The cluster members agreed to work on the manuals as joint authors in an individual capacity.

Item 7: Dr. Shreve asked the cluster to consider 1)the preparedness of our chemistry students as they enter and leave general chemistry 2)possibly instituting a stronger math pre-requisite and/or placement test for CHM 1045, and 3) the ideology behind teaching lab courses. The cluster asked for more pertinent information and time to review that information before a discussion would ensue.

With no further business, the cluster was adjourned.

Course	Adoption	Next Adoption
1020, 1020L	Aug 2011	Aug 2015 (3 + 1)
1025	Aug 2012	Aug 2015
1045/1045L	Aug 2012	Aug 2016 (3 + 1)
1046/1046L	Jan 2013 [phase in from 1045]	Jan 2017 (3 + 1)
2210/2210L	Aug 2011	Aug 2014
2211/2211L	Jan 2012 [phase in from 2210]	Jan 2015

Dr. Shreve also informed the cluster via email on Monday, 17 October 2011, of the latest ACT test scores and the implications of these on student preparedness. He also directed the cluster's attention to the need for labs in general and provided links to journal articles discussing the effectiveness of lab courses. Finally, he asked the cluster to consider revising how textbooks are selected and provided copies of his suggested forms via email. It was deemed by the cluster chair that not enough time was given to the cluster prior to the meeting to justify discussion of these topics in the cluster meeting. If the members of the cluster indicate their interest in discussing these topics they will be included in future agendas.