



Date: January 29, 2008

From: Michael Mahoney, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

To: Michael Leung, Dean, College of Science
Donald Gailey, Chair, Biological Sciences

Subject: MOU Meeting – B.S., B.A., M.S. in Biological Science

On January 22, 2008, I met with Michael Leung, Dean, Science; Alan Monat, Associate Dean, Science; Don Gailey, Chair, Biological Sciences; Aline Soules, Chair, CAPR; and Carl Bellone, AVP Academic Programs and Graduate Studies to discuss the Program Review for the B.S., B.A. and M.S. in Biological Science to develop an MOU as required by CAPR 9.

It is clear that there is a growing and constant demand for biology graduates in an evolving job market. Biology at CSUEB started out as mostly involving the study of organisms. But the field of Biology has changed. Molecular and cell biology and the new field of biochemistry have grown and as has the biotech industry. This change in the discipline and industry has resulted in some biology departments splitting into separate departments. The Biological Sciences Department at East Bay remains as a large diverse unit, however, not without some internal issues.

Due to the popularity of biology in the workforce, the department is experiencing student growth which results in a need for infrastructure improvements (resources, space) and additional faculty.

The department's SFR of 25 is a system-wide high. The Department has maximized its participation in GE (including upper division GE) and has offered additional courses to meet the demands of the expanded Nursing Program.

One of the department's biggest challenges is facilities. The program is essentially running at maximum capacity given its physical space. The current Science building was built for biology appropriate for the 1960s but not for the type of more sophisticated biological research of today. In addition, the current Science building has inadequate faculty office space. It is difficult to know where to put more lab sections or more faculty. Biology is at the limits of its growth due to these physical constraints.

The Department of Biological Sciences is the leading grant getter in the College of Science. However, the Department needs more Research Incentive Grants and more start up funding for new faculty. Currently, the College of Science is apparently not receiving

a regular share of indirect cost return dollars which makes it difficult for the Dean to find matching funds for grants.

The department's assessment efforts have progressed from student reports of satisfaction to direct measurement of student learning via an ETS exam for Biology which is administered every other year.

The results of the MOU meeting are as follows:

1. Due to the growth in student demand and in the field of biology, biotechnology, and biochemistry, the Department should develop a hiring plan well before the next CAPR Five Year Review which is due in 2009/10.
2. Working with the Dean, the department needs to develop a strategy for dealing with anticipated growth to include the need for lab space, faculty office space, and the balance between different specialties within Biological Sciences.
3. The University and the College of Science need to explore ways of providing adequate and dependable support for research and grant proposals which would benefit Biological Sciences as well as other departments. The new Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs (currently in the search process) and improved pre- and post-award administration processes should help.
4. The department supported the Nursing major and Pre-Nursing major at Concord but needs a better plan for doing so and assurance of sufficient student demand from the Concord Campus.

AVP Carl Bellone and I sincerely appreciate the very significant work that the Department of Biological Sciences and its chair continue to do in important areas of education and research. In particular, we thank the department for its substantial efforts to educate students who will add great talent to a critical and growing workforce of the region. We'd also like to thank the CAPR members for their time and informative report.

cc: Carl Bellone
Aline Soules
Hank Reichman
Susan Correia