



SCIENCE DIVISION

Minutes of the Science Division Meeting

Date: April 19, 2013

Place: MSA 306

Members present: Mesfin Alemayehu, Abraha Bahta (Chairperson), Elizabeth Bell, Laurimar Escudero, Steven A. Fink, Michael (Tony) Recht, Beraki Woldehaimanot.

Attending Guests: Judith-Ann Friedman, Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, Allan Hansen, Phillip Vogt, Andrea Forster, Dora Cojocar, Lisa Reneau, John Nguyen, Susie Huber-Lytal, Telly Garcia, Vered Mirmovitch, and Art Naselow.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes (March 1, 2013)
2. Odors in MSA Science Laboratories (Allan Hansen) [**30 minutes**]
3. Organic Chemistry Labs at West (Mesfin Alemayehu) [**10 minutes**]
4. Chair's Report:
 - A. Completion of SLO Assessments for all Fall 2012 classes offered by the Division. (We are at 80% completion)
 - B. FPIP List for 2013-2013
 - C. Resource request in Program Review for 2013-2014.
 - D. Theft of 20 Physics laptops: still unresolved; propose to make special budget request to enhance Security!
 - E. Summer and Fall 2013 Schedule of Classes are on ESC
5. Gold Creek Open House on Saturday, April 27, 2013
6. Other Business?

Meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 8:45 am.

1. Approval of March 1, 2013 minutes

Minutes were approved as presented.

2. Odors in MSA Science Laboratories:

Allan Hansen, Director of Plant Facilities, addressed members of the Division and guests to describe the various ventilation problems in MSA classrooms and laboratories since the Building opened in fall 2010. Hansen distributed copies to members that detail the actions Plant facilities has undertaken in defining and understanding the various sources of these recurring chemical odors. Allan stated that Plant Facilities has responded to every incident immediately upon notification and now has a greater picture of the compounding problems, and has started making progress in tackling them. Some of the key findings are as follows:

1. Malfunctioning trap primers causing the water to evaporate in the p-traps connected to the floor drains, thus allowing sewer odors to enter into the hallways through restroom facilities!
2. Faulty building design that results in the sewer vents terminating at the roof level being placed in the vicinity to the outside air intake on the building air handlers!
3. Organic fumes exhausted by the exhaust system in the organic laboratories in the fourth floor are entering the Biology prep-room in MSA-308 and Physiology classroom/laboratory, MSA 211. Apparently, the exhaust systems that service these laboratories are in close proximity to the air handling systems at the roof!

Allan promised to return and consult with the Division members as to the various options that are being discussed with consultants who can be contracted to fix the exhaust-ventilation systems in the building.

3. Organic Chemistry Labs at West:

Mesfin Alemayehu, Organic Chemistry Professor made a brief presentation on safety in working in Chemistry laboratories, particularly when working in organic chemistry labs. Various distillation procedures—reflex, vacuum -were two setups that were explained at length.

4. Chair's Report:

- A. Completion of SLO Assessments for all Fall 2012 classes offered by the Division. (We are at 80% completion):

The chairperson explained that SLO assessment is required for accreditation. He reminded members that during the accreditation process last year, West received a failing grade, so it is very important that all faculty in the Division do their best to take this activity seriously and submit to his office their SLO assessment tools electronically and in hard copy.

- B. FPIP Ranking Vertical List for 2013-2014 distributed to members.
- C. Resource request in Program Review for 2013-2014 distributed to members.
- D. Theft of 20 Physics laptops: still unresolved; propose to make special budget request to enhance Security!
- E. Summer and Fall 2013 Schedule of Classes are on ESC

5. Gold Creek Open House on Saturday, April 27, 2013. This was FYI for members.

6. Other Business?

Tony Recht wanted to have a discussion about cheating in the classroom via the use of a cell phone. The chairperson suggested that this topic be in the agenda for the next divisional meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks by the Chairperson at 11:05 am.