
Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) Textbook Provision (Todd Summer, SDSU Bookstore)

- Implications for textbook decisions
- Expectation that cost of assigned textbooks seriously considered
- Bookstore is offering many textbook rental options
- Online textbooks being considered
- Please consult with Todd at bookstore if questions

Department / Program Announcements

- Department of Psychology has just finished an Academic Review Self Study.
- Department of Biology’s Electron Microscope Facility just purchased a new EM with an ARRA Grant organized by Steve Barlow.
- Department of Physics had a site visit for their Medical Physics program in October. The unofficial report indicated that they will be approved for accreditation.
- Department of Computer Science found an anomaly related to students filing their plan of study for their master’s degree. There appear to be more restrictions to revise a plan of study than there are to file it initially. Because of this, the department is now recommending that students work from a “draft” plan with their advisor but wait to file with GRA until the last minute.
- CRMSE has an alliance with the YMCA in South East San Diego County for an afterschool program in science and math. They are working to develop a related course for students to earn credit for participating in this program.
- The Mount Laguna Observatory has just made their first payment on the new telescope.
- The Department of Chemistry has been a part of a long standing battle regarding Cost Recovery accounts on the State side. They are looking forward to positive results coming out of an upcoming meeting between the Dean and Budget and Finance. [Follow-up from Maloy: The process was very difficult initially, but they expect future requests will be much faster and easier.]
- A new Preprofessional Health Postbac certificate for Veterans will be offered through College of Extended Studies.
Geology Department brought in about $800K in funding this last year. Kim Olsen and Steve Day's work in the computer simulation of earthquake damage is being considered for a prestigious award.

The Psychology JDP Program has begun their involvement in an experimental online application review process jointly with the College of Education. If it works well there is the potential for both time and cost savings. In addition, the program is finalizing their initiative for students to take neurology courses with medical students at UCSD.

Computational Science Resource Center has received unsolicited input from students that the new external review process for international student applications has decreased the number of international students applying because of the additional cost and time delay. This issue will be brought up at the next Graduate and Research Affairs Council meeting.

The Math and Statistics Department is working to form a resolution between the Math Department Chairs and the State to dissuade public figures and administrators from admitting they are bad at Math and thereby implying to young people that it's okay for them to not learn math.

Faculty in the Astronomy Department have made important research contributions to the NASA Kepler Mission (http://kepler.nasa.gov/).

The Office of International Programs reported that SDSU is #1 in the State in our category for Study Abroad programs, #3 in the Country in our category, and #4 over all in the State. In addition, we are ranked #22 of all universities in the United States for study abroad.

Budget Update

- Details on the budget situation will be discussed at the College Wide meeting being held on Tuesday, November 16th. [The powerpoint presentation from the College meeting is posted on the CoS website.]
- Department budget summaries were sent to the Chairs and Coordinators last week. The department budgets will be discussed at individual meetings with the department chair and coordinator and the college deans.

Vacation Usage

- A memo will be sent out later this week outlining the college’s policy on vacation usage for faculty in 12-Month positions.
- Because we cannot budget for unused vacation payouts, such payouts are a heavy burden on the budget. Hence, it is expected that employees on 12-month appointments will use their vacation time during the 12-month faculty appointment.

College Announcements:

- **College-wide Meeting** – The goal is to update everyone on the key issues related to the budget, planning for the future, etc. Sandy Bernstein will also speak about the upcoming search for the Vice President for Research /Dean of Graduate Division and the SDSURF.
- **Science Festival** - Explore SDSU is coming up in March 2011 and will be coordinated the Science Sampler. Engineering will join the sciences this year, so the event will be
renamed the Science and Engineering Sampler. This event will be part of the San Diego Science Festival.

Open Forum

• Please make the Dean’s Office aware of special awards received in your department. For example, K99 Awards are a big deal and we’d like to share that on our website and in the newsletter.
• The question was raised as to why the Chairs no longer receive a notification of awards received by their faculty. It was noted that the Dean’s Office doesn’t receive this information on a regular basis either. Julie Mitsven will look into it and report back to the group. [Follow-up: We have requested this information and will provide it to the departments on a regular basis.]
• The COS now has a newsletter that goes out to donors, potential donors, alumni, and friends of the college. It is filled with short stories obtained from the departments, programs, and faculty. Please make it a priority to share department news. This is really important because it influences our fundraising efforts! Encourage your faculty to provide stories, or email us if they have any questions. The newsletter also includes alumni updates and spotlights a donor. [The stories should be 100-200 words long written for the lay public, and should include a related image that will be enticing as a "thumbnail" on the website and in the newsletter.]