



NATURAL SCIENCES' WEEKLY

Monday, April 4, 2005

1. New Weekly Format and Discussion Opportunities for Natural Sciences Division

Sean, Jan, and I are working with ACT to expand the opportunities for online interactions within our Division. By next week (hopefully!) the Natural Sciences' Weekly will have its new format and will be stored using a pdf file and linked to you via your email, like the President's Weekly currently is.

NSW will be linked to our new WebCT site where you will be able to have online 24/7 discussions (limited to Division personnel) of important issues on our new Discussion Board; issues of highest discussion potential may be added to the Division Meeting Agenda depending on Division interest.

We expect this to materialize by next week!

2. Meeting with tBP Architects and Science Building Working Group (SBWG) Thursday

The SBWG meets this Thursday in the Administration Building from noon to 4pm with reps from tBP architects. The focused purpose of this meeting is to learn about tBP's presentation for a Replacement Building concept featuring zero growth and to begin to evaluate how it meets our instructional needs.

This is potentially a key meeting to help Natural Sciences faculty and staff begin to clarify options for future Science Facilities at FC.

The SBWG currently consists of the following dedicated faculty and staff: Jake Sapiro, Annie Bianchino, Tom Morris, Lili Barabas, Stephanie Cashin, and Elise Phan. This group will report back to the Division on their findings.

3. NASA Opportunities for Visual Academics Mini-Grant Awarded! Congratulations!!

From Annie:

Annie B., Liliana B., Sam F., Ted C., and Jan C. have been awarded a \$3000 mini-grant from the NOVA project to develop curriculum for the physical science classes that future teachers will take. These courses will replace our old physical science survey course. The new courses will be separate (2-unit) survey courses in chemistry and physics. Both courses will implement discovery based learning activities and perhaps some service learning components that would be beneficial to future teachers. Any questions, ideas, or comments are welcome.

3. Environmental Science Faculty Applicants Interviewed Friday/Saturday

From Tom:

The Environmental Science Hiring Committee will interview a total of 7 candidates for our new faculty position. Interviews will occur in the mornings of Friday and Saturday (April 8 and 9).

4. Chemistry Faculty Applicants to be Interviewed Next Friday (4/15)

Chemistry has invited 6 applicants to interview for our new faculty position on Friday, April 15; as of this moment 5 have accepted and we expect the other one will when he get's his vm.

5. This Month's Department Coordinator Meetings to focus on Program Planning and SLO's

All Department Coordinators (in two groups for scheduling purposes) have begun to meet with Bruce to discuss issues and plans of interest. As a follow-up to last week's Special Division Meeting, this month's DC Meetings will highlight discussions of Division Program Planning and SLO's that will facilitate our contributions to facilities planning, including future Science facilities planning.

This Month's DC Meetings have been re-scheduled: Group #1 will meet on Thursday April 28, and Group #2 will meet on Thursday April 14, both at Noon. Please see your email messages.

6. Classroom 626 Outfitted with TV/DVD/VCR

In a one-time partnership with the Humanities Division, we have agreed to spit the cost of a TV/DVD/VCR for use in Room 626, currently a classroom with few amenities. Although we do not "control" the scheduling of 626, we typically run from 1/3 to 1/2 of the total classes in there, including ESC, BIOL, and ENVS.

Please provide feedback on this arrangement, including on how it works.

7. Health Professions Symposium a Great Success!

Many thanks to Brad for organizing such an extremely successful event! Over 120 students attended 4 breakout sessions and learned about their potential futures from 4 outside-FC speakers, several former students, and Natural Sciences faculty.

In addition to the stellar organizational efforts of the Cadena Transfer Center and our Counseling Department, we want to offer special thanks to FC faculty who contributed of their time and expertise including: Brad, Jake, Lillian, Jo, Jan, and Annie.

The Health Professions Symposium is likely to become an annual event, and a wonderful model for students interested in potentially transferring in other disciplines as our Science Roadmap expands!

**PLEASE NOTE: The next Natural Sciences' Weekly will next appear on Monday, April 11.
Please send e-mail submissions by 5 pm Thursday, April 7.**