

Biological Sciences Staff Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

10 a.m., Stephens Room, 3503 Thomas Hall

Jerry LeBlanc greets group. Addresses department's challenge of adjusting to reduced resources and acknowledges the difficulty of it for everyone. Relays anticipation of a 5-10% budget reduction at the start of the fiscal year (7/1), and the goal of increasing enrollment as a means to lift some of the financial burden. He reminds the group of dept. certificate program for high school teachers, which is progressing nicely and is expected to launch in the next academic year, and will translate into additional funds for subsequent years. He acknowledges rumors that enrollment will increase at the undergraduate level, and reassures group that the dept. wants to ensure we can accommodate our students with what we have.

Jerry reminds group of the arrival of Kurt Marsden (assistant professor in neuroscience), joining us in July. Kurt brings with him his wife who will be teaching in the music department (opera).

Next addressed is the dept. strategic plan. Jerry identifies 2016 as the year the dept. worked to settle down and figure out dept. identity, and 2017 as the year BioSci defines its future. Reminds staff that the plan and mission statement are accessible on Google Docs for all to view and comment, thanks those who have done so. Vicki Martin has taken on management of sub-groups/committees charged with addressing the key points raised in the plan, and at the beginning of the new AY, the goal is to have a final document prepared.

Jerry addresses the recent college-contracted organizational assessment, the purpose of which was to identify the best organization for business operations and optimum productivity for the college. The group interviewed/evaluated administrative 4 units: IT, HR, Contracts/Grants, and Finance. The group has provided their report to the dean which Jerry reviewed over the weekend. He states it didn't contain any surprises, and that he and the other heads will discuss with the dean at their next meeting [4/19/17], after which the dean will meet with everyone to discuss the plans. The dean has stressed that this report is not the plan for college organization, rather its information that will help establish the plan.

Jerry invites Angie Lueneburg to speak about the dept.'s upcoming Spring Graduation. Angie advises group the ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. in Reynolds coliseum, and asks that if any staff plan to process with students to please arrive at 7-7:30. Advises group they need more volunteers [if you would like to volunteer, please email Angie at angie_lueneburg@ncsu.edu]. If volunteering a 7:30 arrival would be great. Melissa Robbins to record the ceremony. Jerry informs group of commencement speaker, Dr. Linda Birnbaum, Director of NEIHS.

Bobbie Kelly inquires if a student speaker should be designated. Marcus Peoples advises he emailed students with application to do so.

Jerry opens floor to staff for questions/concerns.

Pa Nhia Moore addresses increase in enrollment, inquires of the dept.'s plan to address staffing/seating concerns. Jerry advises it will require more sections, and that Jane Lubischer is aware of the need. Patty Aune agrees with the concern, stating a space issue for labs. Jerry advises the dept. is on it and will get it sorted.

Jerry asks for any further questions. Meeting adjourns.