



Merritt College Counseling Department

Counselor Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2007

Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. In attendance: Allen, Zielke, McLean, Ilarde, Coplan, Ciddio, Wong, Pantell. Guest: Hank Fabian, Biology.

- Biology Program Updates** Fabian presented on two emerging programs in Biology Dept., noting though that full programs (degree or certificate) in each are still in development.
 - Genomics: Study of genes through DNA collection. Using amphibians and reptiles, doing original research that students will be able to publish. Partnering w/ several prestigious 4-year schools, including MIT. Program will provide internships at local sites to give students applied skills. In the process of ordering high tech micro array equipment. Currently offering Genomics I, plan to have Genomics II in S08 and add class in good lab practices. Expect students can acquire needed skills in 2 semesters w/ Genomics I & II, lab practices, and MATH 203.
 - Microscopy: Use of high tech and sophisticated microscope techniques in different areas of science and research. Usually involves injecting fluorescent dye into proteins and then using different microscope techniques (fluorescence, electron, etc.). Merritt one of only 2 schools in country offering microscopy training—very prestigious.
 - Employment: Average starting wage in microscopy is \$60K since trained technicians in demand. Employment usually in hospitals, clinics, research centers, universities, Silicon Valley, Biotech industry, genomics labs. Profile of ideal student hard to identify since some of the students in Genomics I doing very well only had high school Biology. Should have some computer expertise. Will probably offer certificate since many students already have Bachelor's and are interested only in skills, not another degree. Some, but not a lot of overlap between Genomics and Microscopy programs—probably just lab techniques.
- Academic Senate Report** Zielke gave report from last meeting.
 - Encouraged all to vote in current election.
 - Noted creation of Eve Wallenstein scholarship fund—see Audrey Trotter for more information.
 - Mentioned that Senate membership can be paid through payroll deduction.
 - Departments ordering equipment using Measure A funds.
 - President Adams asking for ideas and plans for creation of faculty lounge in R-7.
 - All 4 campuses got funding for 2 new positions but positions haven't been created.
 - Professional Day October 24th.
- Transfer Center Report** Ilarde gave update on Transfer Center activities. Transfer Day is October 30th. Volunteers needed to staff tables and help out. Ilarde presenting an orientation for student volunteers for Transfer Day on October 23. UCSD outreach rep will be on campus October 25th; encourage students to attend. CSU EB and Chapman University scheduled to attend future Counseling Department meetings to present on programs of interest to Merritt students.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.