

BIOLOGY Consortium Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Location: Central GA Technical College, Macon

Chair and Facilitator: Jeremy Bishop, West Georgia

Recorder: Alicia Anderson – Columbus

Attendees: see list at end of minutes

Karen Howard substituted for Benita Moore

Agenda Topic 1: Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeremy Bishop at 10:19 am. The persons in attendance are shown on the roster at the end of the minutes. Participants introduced themselves by indicating their colleges and the courses they taught. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss biology courses and standards, current trends in the field, and best practices. Representatives from Bluedoor Publishing were also present.

Agenda Topic 2: Minutes from October 2016 Meeting

Alicia Anderson reviewed the minutes from the last Biology Consortium Meeting of October 4, 2017. The motion to approve the minutes was accepted and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Topic 3: Open Resources Options and Textbooks

General discussion with Nikki Stubbs ([nstubbs@tcsge.edu-404.679.1633](mailto:nstubbs@tcsge.edu)) on open resource textbooks (primarily Openstax) and how they are working. She announced that TCSG has completed building a course framework, based on open resource textbooks, for BIOL 1111. It is located on the GVTC Blackboard home page and includes subject matter content, end of chapter discussion questions, assignments and tests, but not final exams. The gradebook is not set up since that tends to be more individual for each instructor. The course objectives are from the State Standards. Materials in the Instructor Resource section can be moved but **SHALL NOT BE DELETED!**

Agenda Topic 4: Review of BIOL Courses (State Standards)

Review of different courses was conducted as outlined below.

BIOL 1111/L and BIOL 1112/L –No changes were recommended.

BIOL 1210/L – Introduction to Botany. There is no college currently teaching this course. However, it was decided to leave it available in the course standards.

BIOL 2100 – Survey of Human Body. There is no college currently teaching this course. It is considered to be a foundation course for A&P. No changes were recommended.

BIOL 2107/L – Biological Principles I and BIOL 2108/L – Biological Principles II. No changes were suggested for these courses. Further discussion of what is working/not working in these classes will be conducted during the Speed Dating round.

BIOL 2113/L and 2114/L – Anatomy and Physiology. Discussion continued on how unprepared students are to take these classes. Discussed offering Biology 0093 to students who fail the first test in Biology 2113. Students would swap classes. The swap would not count as a W, would not go against their financial aid or their GPA. This would not be an option for Dual Enrollment students. Also talked about having a “Bone Us” lab where they are introduced to A&P I “things to know.” Concern from faculty was presented regarding not having enough qualified instructors to offer additional provisional-type science courses. Discussed use of hybrid courses and technology and the pros and cons. Some students completely object to hybrid or just don’t understand. Discussed different blends of hybrid and in class strategies. The topic of ensuring that online labs were not offered was presented as USG does not accept online/virtual science labs. N. Stubbs announced that a GVTC shell for Biology 2113 may be ready by next Fall semester. Faculty additionally raised concerns regarding the currently available OERs for Anatomy and Physiology not being adequate in terms of subject matter for our courses. Further discussion of what is working/not working in these classes will be conducted during the Speed Dating round.

BIOL 2117/L – BIOL 2117- a motion was made to move the verbiage “Interactions and Impact of Microorganisms (this may include Bio Safety Level 1 and/or Level 2 Pathogens) with Humans” under Section 1 of the standard. Brief discussion followed where it was decided to keep the statement where it was and to duplicate it under Section 1. Motion was voted on and approved. Concern was expressed about providing more training as far as exposure to pathogens in 2117L. Various sources of training were discussed. Further discussion of what is working/not working in these classes will be conducted during the Speed Dating round.

BIOL 2210/L – Cell Biology and Immunology. No changes were recommended. No college is currently teaching these courses.

BIOL 2120 – Research Methods in Biology. Gwinnett Tech and Columbus Tech both teach this. No changes were recommended. Questions were asked about what projects were done, suggestion made to post them to list serve. University of Utah has virtual labs that may help with projects.

BIOL 2250 – Applied Biotechnology Internship. No changes were made. Gwinnett Tech uses this course for bioscience students.

BIOL 2311 – Human Pathophysiology. No changes were recommended. Gwinnett Tech offers this course.

Agenda Topic 5: Review of USG v. TCSG Course Descriptions

The main topics from USG to TCSG are equivalent but the two tracks are so different it is hard to compare. Having our standards more specific may ease the “stigma” associated with two year colleges. Suggested revisions from our 2018 consortium attendees are still being sent to Jeremy Bishop, which will then be compiled and offered for implementation, after review, via voting by the members in attendance. The goal of this project is to not only align our standards with USG course descriptions, but ensure the most viable articulation potential between TCSG and USG.

Agenda Topic 6: Open Discussion

Five stations were set up that allowed attendees to hold open discussions on the following topics:

- Biology 2107/2108 and labs – what works and doesn’t work
- Biology 2113/2114 and labs – what works and doesn’t work
- Biology 2117/L – what works and doesn’t work
- How do you handle student issues, attendance challenges, etc?
- Selecting open resources and textbooks

The key topics derived from each discussion are summarized below.

Summary of Open Discussions at 10 3 18 BIOL IFCC

1. Non-attendance tendency
Some instructors stated that they cannot drop students for attendance issues, others stated that they have to drop students who miss four consecutive days. Absences have to be documented. Some have changed attendance to participation
2. Work ethics – in Gen Ed classes, most don’t do work ethics
3. Dual enrollment discipline problems, unsure how to deal with them
4. Make up labs - some don’t offer make-up labs but drop the lowest lab grade
5. Extra Credit or “Re-dos” - some do offer them, some don’t. Either way, the consensus was that there is a lack of support from administration concerning grades.
6. Issues with VA and classes.

These were the main issues introduced by various faculty. The allotted time wasn’t enough to get into detailed discussion about how to deal with the problems but was enough to make it very apparent that these problems are common throughout the system and that further attention may be appreciated.

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Alicia Anderson, Recorder

BIOL IFCC 10 3 18 Attendees

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