

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT CHAIR'S MEETING
October 15, 2007**

PRESENT:	Biological Sciences	Dr. Brooks Burr
	Chemistry & Biochemistry	Dr. Dan Dyer for Dr. Gary Kinsel
	Computer Science	Dr. Mehdi Zargham (absent)
	Geology	Dr. Steve Esling
	Mathematics	Dr. Andrew Earnest
	Microbiology	Dr. John Martinko for Dr. Douglas Fix
	Physics	Dr. Aldo Migone
	Plant Biology	Dr. Dale Vitt
	Zoology	Dr. William Muhlach
	Dean's Office	Dr. Jay Means, Dean; Dr. Laurie Achenbach, Interim Associate Dean; Ms. Julia Wetstein, Assistant Dean

Current Fiscal State of the College: Dean Jay Means addressed the group to lay out the budget and commitments for FY 08, as there is a problem balancing both sides of the budget equation. The first issue addressed was pertaining to salaries. In Handout #1, the Dean reported salary dollars from vacancies and salary dollars committed due to new hires to fill some of the vacancies. Most of the dollars for unfilled position were lost from the College. For the Faculty Hiring Initiative (FIH) searches that were not completed, the dollars for these positions did not come to the College. A note was made by A. Earnest that there was a retirement in Mathematics mid-year FY07 from Dr. Gregory. (See amended version of Handout #1 attached).

Total Commitments for Salary, Handout #2. \$1,357 remaining for the entirety of FY08. (See Handout #2)

Issue II, Indirect Cost Recovery (IDC) accounts. Handout #3 shows a chart of the distribution on start up funds for new faculty from the COS, Academic Departments, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. (See Handout#3)

Current Balances and Commitments for (IDC) Handout #4 shows the current fiscal year IDC and equipment budget available compared against committed funds which leaves a deficit of \$8,038 for FY 08. (See Handout #4)

Current Balances in IDC accounts held in the Academic Departments, Handout # 5 shows a comparison of commitments for FY08 made by the departments compared to current balances in the department's IDC accounts. The specific amounts in each was not reported and kept anonymous. The Dean stated the current policy for University IDC is to split the pool in three ways with 30% going to the Chancellor, 39% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, and 30% to the unit/college. Within the COS, 10% is held centrally (Dean's office) and 20% held in the departments to make the total of 30% to the unit portion of University pool. (See Handout #5)

The Dean stated that the current situation and policy is not fiscally sustainable. He will develop a proposal to request a change in the distribution of IDC funds. This proposal will be presented to the Provost, if start up costs continue to be covered by the College. The College equipment budget had been tapped in the past which has lead to some of the current fiscal problems. The Dean will pursue an

answer to the question of where the salary dollars from un-filled position have gone. If FHI hires are sought by departments, the Dean's Office has no dollars to contribute for start up costs. SIU Foundation funds designated for the COS are restricted to donor directed expenditures, such as scholarships. None of the SIU Foundation funds for which the Dean has fiscal authority are discretionary dollars.

The Dean asked the chairs to consider the current state of the budget and work with him to develop a new policy and distribution schedule for IDC funds that will address current and future deficits. The Dean will take the recommendations to upper administration at the University.

As a part of his hiring negotiations, the Dean received commitments from the Provost for three (3) new faculty positions and additional dollars for classroom renovation. However, these two commitments will not be actualized until FY 09 through FY 11.

Dr. Burr asked about the inclusion of Wildlife and Fisheries in the discussion. The Dean commented that to his knowledge, their IDC accounts are not included as a portion distributed to the COS.

Dr. Migone stated that some of the IDC funds in his department were already committed to faculty and could not be freed or redistributed.

The budget for George Cotton's salary was noted because some of the departmental IDC was committed to cover this new and recurring expense.

It was noted that in most cases only 75% of the salary dollars for FHI new hires comes from the Provost, except in the cases when these positions are filled by minority/ meet diversity goals.

Dr. Migone suggested that it would be a good idea to call a meeting of the College Budget committee to go over these same budget issues.

The Dean had an initial meeting with the Provost two weeks prior to present these deficits. He charged the committee to think about possible solutions he could take back to the Provost, including a change in the percentages of start up shouldered by the departments. The Dean excused himself to attend another meeting.

Dr. Burr brought up a questions of recruiting events, such as Open House. Dr. Achenbach responded that the Dean's office staff is new and is getting adjusted to the required tasks.

Ms. Wetstein distributed a tentative academic planning calendar. She also distributed a draft copy of a COS scholarship application to be developed and linked to the new searchable database on the SIUC Financial Aid website. She asked for input on the application and copies of applications currently being used in the departments. Her goal is that the new form will meet all the informational needs of the departments in their process to award scholarships.

Adjourned at 4:00 pm