

Action Report Summary for Chemistry

Action Steps by Responsible Party

Department:

1. There is a clear need to create a Strategic Plan (SP) that aligns with the current mission of the institution. The Strategic Plan for the Chemistry Department should be informed by referring to the three broad national models of departmental or institution function: a research-centric model, an under-graduate centric model (liberal arts), and a teaching model with opportunities for doctoral research. The SP should benchmark what type of institution they aspire to be and how they will achieve that. The Department can identify public institutions that it aspires to equal.

- The steps to strengthen and sustain the Chemistry department should be incorporated in a Strategic Plan. A strategic planning process should be initiated soon, involving input from all constituencies, faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

2. Benchmarking is a valuable exercise. The Department can identify public institutions that it aspires to equal. Public institutions that serve a similar community can be used to see if there are any changes or revisions to the curriculum that need to be made.

3. The Department can review what was learned during the pandemic. Any useful lessons learned during the pandemic can be implemented even when the campus returns to face-to-face classrooms. The pandemic has created the incentives to develop new teaching videos, you-tube channels of video-taped labs, and training materials. Some of these could be published in video journals such as Jove.

4. Suggestion: Review areas of student concern and suggestions: Work with Associate Provost Victor Brown and Online Education Director Olena Zhadko regarding possible course redesign funding.

- Concerns:
 - The lack of elective courses offered in some tracks, and
 - Unreliable building infrastructure
- Suggestions:
 - Professors should transition to using modern teaching tools and technologies such as iClickers, and videos, and
 - Creation of a journal Club where Chemistry faculty and students can meet to discuss papers
 - Cost: \$500 (possibly seek \$ from Student Affairs/Student Association Fees)

School:

5. None

Office of the Provost:

6. The program's recent growth needs financial and an increase in personnel support from the Dean and the Senior Administration.

7. Some strategic hires of faculty in the next few years seem to be in order. This can bolster the strengths in the Department in Analytical Chemistry and Biochemistry. Fall 2019 enrollment: 136; Fall 2020 enrollment: 127 (requesting 2 lines) Priority/Potential endowed professorships

8. The increasing enrollment should be supported with at least two full-time technicians. This will alleviate the need to split between two buildings and to cover all lab courses when someone is sick or on leave. (1 new line)

9. Efficient research space

- Cost of consultants to do inventory and analysis of research space: \$80,000 (Gillette, Davis, Science Hall)