



# Life Science Department News

March 23, 2001

## Linda Wegener to Retire

Linda Wegener has formally submitted her retirement request effective for the end of the semester. Linda has made significant contributions to the department during her tenure here. One of the most significant was her leadership in the planning and construction of our new building. Linda may be around for a while following her retirement as she has requested participation in the active retirement program. Thus, she will be joining Ron Hill as one of our Faculty Emeritii. However, we have NOT determined the extent and nature of Linda's assignment in the active retirement program.

Please join me in thanking Linda for her contributions, congratulating her on her retirement, and wishing her well in whatever new and exciting endeavors she undertakes.

## Withdrawal Policy Proposal

My comments in the last *Department News* generated some good discussion. The exchanges have been good -- please continue. I have been researching the subject a bit more and have developed the following proposal.

- All faculty are required to withdraw students (W) who stop attending before the 45th day (legislative financing requirement).
- All faculty are required to record the last date of attendance for every student after the 45th day (financial aid requirement, especially VA).
- All faculty are required to record attendance by some means sufficient to determine the last date of attendance (follows from above).
- When students stop coming to class, faculty must withdraw them (financial aid requirement).
- Withdrawn students must be given a W (withdrawn passing) or a Y (withdrawn failing).

Thus, we must withdraw students who stop coming to class, and I propose that we give withdrawn students a W or a Y. Although it is technically possible to withdraw a student and give them an F, it makes no sense to do so because a Y is equivalent to an F for most purposes. It might help you to know that for GPA purposes a Y is the same as an F. However, a Y like a W clearly indicates that the student was withdrawn. Appropriate withdrawals prevent financial aid fraud. Many students have been requesting that they not be withdrawn, so they can continue to receive financial aid awards. This should never be allowed as it might jeopardize our financial aid status as an institution. When a withdrawal is clearly indicated with a last date of attendance, financial aid is prorated to the dates actually attended.

A final point about attendance is that we are also required to prevent students who are NOT enrolled from attending our classes. Only enrolled students are covered by our insurance. Students who are not enrolled present a liability issue. It is not clear if we share any responsibility for allowing non-enrolled students to attend our classes. Thus, it is incumbent upon each of us to know who is attending our classes. To do this, we need some form of attendance.

## LS Building Construction over Spring Break

Contractors were working in our building over the break. The primary focus was on installation of

additional ventilation in LS 206 and the cadaver room and the installation of four more noise attenuators on the hoods in the labs (205 and 209 already had attenuators). Unfortunately, the attenuators for 105 and 109 did not come in, therefore they will be installed at a later date. The bad news is that this work did not appreciably affect the noise problem that continues to exist in LS 202. The problem there as well as in other labs is that much of the noise was from the regular HVAC system and not the hoods.

Withers was also in over the break trying to correct some of the punch list items. They did work on the ductwork and were sealing some of the firewalls. One very significant fix was the door closers on the external doors. Finally, they seem to be working OK - cross your fingers.

Withers was also working on repainting the amphitheater. Apparently, it was not painted according to specifications, so they have to do it again.

## **Biotech Program Update**

Denise Clark has been working very hard to develop and implement the biotech program that we have been discussing for years. We are now getting very close to implementing the program pending final approval. For those of you who may not know, we are planning three tracks: transfer to the MCB program at ASU (this is already in place), a biotech certificate program, and an AAS degree in biotechnology. Central to the implementation of this program, Denise has developed a sequence of new courses with the following tentative names and numbers (pending approval):

- BIO 106 Biotechnology and Society - a 3 credit lecture course for nonmajors (not part of any of the three program options above)
- BIO 211 Biotechnology Seminar - a 1 credit seminar repeated for 4 credits in the program
- BIO 212 AA AB AC - Biotechnology - three 5 credit lec/lab courses
- BIO 213 Laboratory Health and Safety - a 3 credit lecture course
- BIO 214 Biotechnology Internship - a 5 credit capstone experience

In addition, the following courses that Denise has developed are already being taught:

- BIO 220 Microbiology for Majors - 4 credit lecture and lab
- BIO 245/246 Cell and Molecular Biology - 4 credit lecture and lab (the latter actually will be implemented in the fall)

Full descriptions of the program will be distributed soon. Thanks to Denise for all the effort and creativity she has put into this program.

## **Library Liaison**

Anne Tolzman had been identified as our liaison to the Library. She is a very enthusiastic and capable addition to the Library faculty from last year. She also serves as the electronic resources librarian, so will be able to help us considerably with our CD's as well as general library issues.

## **Red Mountain Microscopes**

The Red Mountain microscope issue has been decided for us. When we settled on the Zeiss scopes, it was clarified to us that they are not available without oil objectives. Hence, all of our new scopes will have oil. It appears that we have selected a quality scope with good service for a reasonable price.

Also regarding Red Mountain equipment, the lab techs have reviewed the equipment purchase lists to ensure that we have adequate start up equipment. Thanks to the lab techs for their efforts here.

## **LS Department Brochure**

I have distributed copies of our old department brochure to all full time faculty. Please review the content and submit suggestions for changes to Sandy as soon as possible. The Institutional Advancement Office will be printing a new supply for us as soon as I submit a revised version. In addition, they will be producing a brochure for the biotech program. Are there other brochures that would be useful?

## **Spring Schedule**

The deadline is fast approaching for any changes to the spring schedule. As you think about that, please also consider volunteering to teach at Red Mountain. The Red Mountain issue continues to haunt me.

## **Food and Drink in our Labs and Classrooms**

Please enforce a reasonable food and drink policy. Of course you are all aware of the safety issues associated with food and drink in labs as well as OSHA prohibitions thereof. It has also come to my attention that this is becoming a maintenance issue too.

## **Food in Refrigerator in LS Workroom**

There have been some complaints regarding lost food and drink from the refrigerator in the department workroom. Please do not take anything from the refrigerator that is not yours. If there is a chance of confusion, please mark items that you put in the refrigerator. Please also note that some of the food is not for human consumption, but rather is food for some of our hungry reptiles.