

Status Update: Natural Sciences

Recommendation 1: Continue working with Reading Apprenticeship and assess effectiveness of this interdisciplinary approach

Progress: Over the past year, both full time instructors have attended RA workshops and have attempted utilizing what they've learn in at least one of their courses. In Biology 12 Human Biology where students were asked to read from the text and cite what they read, and interpret what they read. These RA activities were created and have been shown to be effective in retaining content based information and help students better understand concepts.

Recommendation 2: Develop AS-T for Biology

Progress: All courses have been approved Fall 2016. We are in the process of completing the TMC for biology this semester.

Recommendation 3: Update and assess Biotechnology curriculum

Progress: We are beginning to look at reviving our biotechnology courses. Given the developing work to offer a series of short non-credit biotech courses with Teknova, we hope this will provide a pipeline to our credit biology and biotech courses.

Recommendation 4: Work Develop and assess Supplemental Instruction Program for Biology

Progress: The SI program in Biology continues to provide critical assistance for our students. We have also been providing a second type of tutoring which we call Biology Excellence workshops. Both types of tutoring have contributed to student success. Students who regularly attend the workshops improve by one-half to a full letter grade, compared with students who do not. Both types of tutoring are not being supported through the general fund; the STEM II and STEM III grants are funding these efforts.

Recommendation 5: Hire full time instructor and 2 lab technicians

Progress: We have not hired a 3rd Full Time biology instructor, nor have we hired a 3rd lab technician. We are not certain where we rank or stand in hiring a 3rd biologist, yet we believe we were in position to hire next round. The 3rd lab tech has been approved, yet we have not posted the position that will be hired to start work this summer.