

Biology Session Notes

Disciplinary Sector Leaders

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The Biology group spent a great deal of time discussing topics in Biology. There were 8 topics discussed and it was thought that these topics be rearranged so that everyone was on the same page. The belief was that for the introductory courses there was a difference in emphasis on material.

The group seemed to accept the two tracts of the two-semester biology courses, majors and non-majors. Discussion centered on cognates for the majors. They included General Chemistry I and II, Organic Chemistry I and II, Precalculus or higher Math, and Physics.

There was a general consensus that:

- The faculty need to know who their campus contact is. Many had no idea. One wrote 'who is in control of sharing information w/ MAST?'

- Faculty members need to be involved with defining the 'bucket's'. Perhaps they could be provided with a list and allowed to do their own sorting.
- Buckets should have a brief description of contents. One faculty member wrote; 'perhaps a second column after the MAST course title'.
- Need to distinguish between majors BIO courses verses non-majors courses.
- If a CC course is accepted by a state university as a particular course, it would help to outline if the course number is that of a major course verses a non-major course (i.e. what level is the course).

Another issue centered on communication. Most state university faculty were unaware of the MAST program and those that looked at the database believed there should be corrections. They had no idea who the contact person was on their campus.

Some specific notes that were written down by various folks:

- 'BIO131/132 – General Bio I & II at Middlesex Community College is mixed majors and should be in the BIOL 1121 / 1121 group.'
- Anatomy and Physiology – needs to be handled as several courses. Some have no prerequisites.
- There needs to be an 'or / and' option in the transfer column.
- If this is to work effectively and accurately, it is essential that there be a dedicated faculty member in the selected department to be the transfer person. This is an addition to chairs workload. Possibly a 3 credit release for one person in each dept. at each school.