

Biological Sciences, Department of
Assessment Plan Summary

Biological Sciences, Department of

Increase Department Visibility

Goal Description:

To increase the exposure of the Department of Biological Sciences at SHSU to other institutions in Texas, the U.S. and globally

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Increased Faculty And Student Participation In National/international Conferences

Performance Objective Description:

The faculty and students in the Department of Biology will increase participation at national and international conferences.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

National/international Conference Participation

KPI Description:

The change in number of faculty and students presenting at national and international conferences in across the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years . Our goal is to document an increase in number of presentations over time and relate to departmental expenditures.

Results Description:

The Department of Biological Sciences gave a total of 122 presentaitons during the 2016-2017 academic year. Of these presentations, 42 were at national and international conferences. Students gave a total of 31 presentations and faculty 9 presentations. This represents an increase of 7 presentations total, an increase of 6 student presenetations and in increase of 3 faculty presentations an international and national conferences.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Continue funding for conference participation

Action Description:

We will continue to provide research related funding to faculty to promote research activity and conference attendance. This funding for FY19 will remain at the same level as FY18. We will then continue to track the research activity and conference attendance by faculty and students. We will use the past 4 years of data to evaluate whether increase financial support for faculty enhances research presence at international and national conferences.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Increased Faculty And Student Participation In Regional Conferences

Performance Objective Description:

The faculty and students in the Department of Biology will increase participation at regional conferences.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Regional Conference Participation

KPI Description:

The change in number of faculty and students presenting at regional conferences will be tracked across the 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 academic years. Our goal is to document an increase in number of presentations over time.

Results Description:

The Department gave a total of 122 presentations during the 2016-2017 academic year. Of these presentations, 80 were given at regional conferences. Students gave 71 of these presentations and faculty gave 7 presentations. This is a decrease of 8 student presentations and a decrease of 2 faculty presentations at regional conferences.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Continue funding for conference participation

Action Description:

We will continue to provide research related funding to faculty to promote research activity and conference attendance. This funding for FY19 will remain at the same level as FY18. We will then continue to track the research activity and conference attendance by faculty and students. We will use the past 4 years of data to evaluate whether increase financial support for faculty enhances research presence at international and national conferences.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

We will request funding to enhance the research-related activities for students and faculty. This funding will be available per request and will be linked directly to student-related research activities. The impact of this increased funding will be evaluated by comparing the increase in faculty/student conference presentations to that of the previous year.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Funding was successfully acquired for these initiatives, however, funding cuts offset the increase. Regardless, we will continue to use creative and efficient budgeting to support faculty and student research that will promote departmental visibility. Currently, our undergraduate and graduate scholarly activity has increased modestly over the past 4 years. We will continue monitoring this increase and will continue to alter budgetary allotments that will allow us to discover new mechanisms for increasing departmental visibility.

Evaluating impact of research funding

Closing Summary:

Although the total number of presentations has remained constant from the previous year 122 vs 123, we saw an increase in international conference attendance and a decrease in regional conference attendance. This increase in international conference attendance could be a result of funding for this activity. This conference are typically more expensive than regional conferences and therefore, lack of funding could limit attendance. However, attendance at these conferences is critical because it will provide exposure of Biology faculty and students to a global stage. We will continue to provide funding for these activities and monitor the change in conference attendance overtime.
