

Strategic Plan for the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition

*Des Moines University
2010-2013*

Mission

The mission of the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition is to educate the students of the University, to engage in scholarly activity and to serve the University and the community.

Vision

The Faculty of the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition will be recognized for the quality of teaching and research as well as for its efforts in promoting wellness

Core Values

Diversity: We respect others and value diversity of opinions, freedom of expression, and other ethnic and cultural backgrounds

Excellence: We seek excellence in all our endeavors and we are committed to continuous improvement.

Integrity: We are committed to the principles of truth and honesty and we will be equitable, ethical and professional.

Intellectual Freedom: We believe in ethical and scholarly questioning in an environment that respects the rights of all to freely pursue knowledge.

Service: We believe that serving others is a noble and worthy endeavor.

Stewardship of Resources: We are dedicated to the efficient and effective use of our resources.

Goals

Maintain Excellence in Teaching through Continuous Improvement

Challenges

1. Improving subject delivery by implementing effective innovations in teaching technology.
2. Tailoring course content to the incoming classes.

3. Continuously updating lecture content to present foreseeable applications of discoveries in the rapidly progressing fields of genetics and molecular medicine.
4. Improving the integration of basic and clinical sciences.
5. Maintaining high teaching competency in the face of faculty retirements.

Strategies

1. Improve faculty participation in educational meetings.
Goal - One person from the department will attend an educational meeting per year within budget constraints.
2. Encourage faculty participation in professional development events on campus.
Goal - Each faculty member expected to attend 20 events.
3. Strengthen interactions with clinical departments to improve clinical relevance of Biochemistry lectures.
Goal - Consult with DMU Family Practice and Internal Medicine clinicians.
4. Replace three outgoing Biochemistry & Nutrition faculty members with two new faculty members.
Goal – Timeline - Request funds in 2010 budget for search to begin in the fall of 2010 to hire a nutritionist to replace retiring faculty member Dr. Spreadbury.
Goal – Timeline - Begin search in the 2011/2012 academic year to replace Dr. Hills and Dr. Mueller with one faculty member.
5. Utilize teaching evaluations to improve faculty classroom skills.
Goal - Participate in national AACPM organization concerning the development of curricular guidelines. Assess learning outcomes by direct and indirect measures.

Develop Research Agenda for Faculty and Provide Opportunities for Student Participation in Research

Challenges:

1. Supporting emerging research programs.
2. Attracting qualified and motivated students to the Biochemistry laboratories.
3. Building a national reputation for faculty.
4. Attracting extramural funding to support the department's research initiatives.
5. Setting up a departmental webpage that promotes faculty accomplishments to students and peers.

Strategies

1. Set aside sufficient time for faculty to engage in research.
Goal - Replace 2 retiring Biochemistry/Nutrition faculty members.

2. Step up efforts to recruit Masters in Biomedical Sciences (MBS) students to the Biochemistry laboratories.
Goal - Maintain and update MBS website.
3. Participate in the IACUC & MBS coordinating committee to guide and develop the University's masters programs.
Goal - Maintain membership in the IACUC & MBS committees.
4. Set up and operate the sample collection/processing center for Polk county in the National Children's Study.
Goal - Support set up and implementation of the National Children's Study at DMU.

Strategies Con't.

5. Support efforts to write funded grant proposals to external agencies.
Goal - One grant application per department per year.
6. Create joint research opportunities with the Global Health Department.
Goal - Schedule departmental meeting with Dr. Shah to discuss research opportunities.
7. Work with Information Technology Services (ITS) to complete Biochemistry webpage development.
Goal - Launch website

Deliver Effective Service to the University and the Community

Challenges

1. Maintaining current levels of service in the face of increasing demands on faculty time and upcoming retirements.
2. Staying involved in the scientific community while devoting efforts to teaching.
3. Connecting to the community of Des Moines through non-healthcare related activities.

Strategies

1. Focus on most effective opportunities for service to the University. Members of the Biochemistry Department have proven most effective in interviewing students for COM and CPMS.
Goal - To maintain a high performance in the number of interviews conducted to select candidates for the forthcoming academic year.
2. Encourage faculty to serve as reviewers for grants and publications.

3. Encourage faculty participation in professional societies, in policy setting committees and in writing/reviewing Board questions.

Goal - Maintain 100% acceptance rate of submitted Board questions.

Goal - Continue to attend NBOME conferences.

4. Strengthen outreach efforts to High School students by participating in science fairs and AHEC-sponsored educational efforts.

Goal - Maintain participation.

Promote Wellness and Disease Prevention

Challenges

1. Promote wellness in the face of increasing demands on time.

Strategies

1. Exemplify wellness by actively participating in “wellness pays” program.

Goal - Maintain membership of the “Wellness Pays” Committee.

2. Offer nutrition electives and exercise classes to the university community.

Goal - Expand nutrition elective classes to DMU students/faculty/staff.

Goal - Continue teaching Tai Chi classes.

3. Maintain active “childhood obesity” working group.

Goal - Replace outgoing chair of the committee.

Biochemistry Strategic Planning Committee

Dr. Philp

Dr. Schmidt (chair)

Dr. Wilson