

# Department of Chemistry and Food Science

## 2012 – 2013 Annual Report

Prepared by Louise A. Bodack, PH.D., Chair

### 1. Develop and retain quality faculty and staff

~~a. Develop recruiting strategies to attract top faculty candidates~~

~~b. Orient and mentor early career faculty~~

c. Support CELTSS and other faculty development resources

- Faculty (Drs. Steven Cok, Catherine Dignam, and Sarah Pilkenton) applied for and were awarded CELTSS funding to attend the 244<sup>th</sup> National American Chemical Society Meeting, in New Orleans, LA (April 2013) to present posters.
- Faculty (Drs. Emmanouil Apostolidis and Matthew Davenport) applied for and were awarded CELTSS funding to support student research.

d. Provide the tools and equipment to support faculty work

- Laboratory technician, Janine Figueredo, is now full-time with the Chemistry and Food Science Department
- Successfully completed a search for Administrative Assistant I position, due to retirement of Lois Oak. New hire will begin July 1, 2013. The search was conducted with the Biology, Physics and Earth Science, and Geography Departments.
- Obtained service contracts to maintain specialized scientific instrumentation, the NMR and FT-IR. This was possible due to money allocated in the budget.

~~e. Strengthen academic community~~

### 2. Strengthen new student preparation, induction and early academic success

a. Align readiness skills with college expectations

- Continued faculty participation (Drs. Louise Bodack, Catherine Dignam, and Sarah Pilkenton) in the STEM course redesign project
- Participation in the PARCC component of the Vision Project (Dr. Sarah Pilkenton)

~~b. Improve orientation, first year and transitional programs~~

~~c. Build connection/community on campus~~

d. Strengthen assessment, advisement and placement

- Look at predictors of success in freshman chemistry courses (Drs. Louise Bodack, Catherine Dignam, and Sarah Pilkenton along with CASA) – this work was presented in the general poster session as well as at the the SciMix event during 244<sup>th</sup> National American Chemical Society Meeting held in New Orleans, LA (April 2013).
- Faculty (Drs. Steven Cok, Louise Bodack, Catherine Dignam, and Sarah Pilkenton) attended the information session, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, on potential changes to the guidelines for maintaining ACS certification. The event was held at the 244<sup>th</sup> National American Chemical Society Meeting held in New Orleans, LA (April 2013)

e. Monitor and foster systematic and progressive preparation for graduation

- Use of data to track student success based on increased rigor of math

### 3. Pursue excellence and engagement in the academic experience

~~a. Increase student faculty collaboration~~

b. Increase experiential learning opportunities

- Further development of internship opportunities - work with area employers and career services. Dr. Emmanouil Apostolidis initiated inviting area food companies to talk with students and the department, discussing the history of the company as well as food science opportunities and career paths selected. Where possible, food science alumni have presented. Some companies have conducted mock interviews and others have conducted interviews for summer internship opportunities. These experiences have been well-received and provided valuable feedback for the department from our alumni.

~~c. Strengthen citizen engagement opportunities~~

~~d. Grow honors and academic enrichment opportunities~~

~~e. Assess and document student learning and personal growth~~

f. Enrich university community with diversity

- The Diversity Fellow position has been converted to tenure track. This is a joint position (Chemistry and Food Science, and Biology Departments) and a successful search was carried out. The hire will begin September 1, 2013.

~~4. Prepare students for global citizenship and competitiveness~~

~~a. Expand global awareness through new majors and programs~~

~~b. Integrate and grow world language programs~~

~~c. Support student international experiences~~

~~d. Grow and manage FSU partnerships with international universities~~

5. **Strengthen and expand STEM programs and student success in STEM areas**

~~a. Expand STEM majors, centers and research and policy analysis~~

~~b. Improve STEM preparation and readiness~~

c. Increase student interest, enrollment and degrees awarded in STEM majors

- The Inaugural Annual Department Retreat was held on Saturday April 20, 2013 at The Warren Conference Center & Inn, 529 Chestnut St., Ashland, MA. Many of the topics discussed resulted from looking at our assessment plan. Based on discussions, the department will be revising the CHG concentration, introducing new courses, and changing prerequisites to better prepare students for upper level chemistry courses.

~~d. Improve STEM career readiness among FSU graduates~~

~~e. Link STEM programs to the regional scientific and technology community~~

~~6. Respond to labor market trends in academic program and center development~~

~~a. Connect regular, systematic assessment of labor market trends to program review and development~~

~~b. Develop and maintain dialogue with major area employers~~

~~c. Systematize the preparation of students for graduate and professional programs~~

~~d. Develop combined degree programs and new graduate programs in response to the needs for the Commonwealth~~