Biology

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
Demand for courses offered by the Biology program at Cypress College continues as one with significant levels of unmet student demand. Courses in Biology typically fill early in the registration process, indicating the great educational needs our program is fulfilling. While addressing the needs of Biology majors, the program also provides courses meeting needs for students in other programs, including those interested in the Allied Health fields, related science and technology fields, and those meeting general education requirements for transfer to four year colleges and universities.

Biology program supplies and materials have been upgraded as funding has come available to assist with high-ticket items. The cycle of renewal is ongoing as developments in the Biological Science modify our understanding of life concepts. Our ability to remain ahead of this curve will be dependent upon our ability to identify and access adequate financial resources.

Other Issues Facing the Department
Meeting the high level of unmet student demand for courses in the Biological sciences will remain a significant issue for the program. Loss of funding for a major renovation of the SEM building poses a significant challenge as we move forward. Many of our Biology labs are equipped with technology that was current at the time the college was founded. Upgrading equipment is a cost-intensive process that must be engaged over time.

Technology changes have significantly impacted the Biology program. In addition to the program specific technology challenges we face, the general classroom and lab environment has also changed. Though funding is not yet secured for significant classroom technology upgrades, the program is committed to improving the general classroom environment is support of the high-quality instruction students have come to expect.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Repair and replace all old and outdated equipment and models for student use.
- Implement to the extent possible current technologies for both students and teachers.
- Increase the efficiency of our lab activities by increasing staffing and improving stockroom procedures.
- Increase safety and efficiency of lab activities for students.
- Upgrade and improve stockroom facility conditions.
- Introduce current technologies and learning opportunities into our curriculum.
- Review course curriculum annually to maintain appropriate scientific and pedagogical rigor and to assure our programs meet the needs of students in certificate and vocational programs.