Instructional Quality Assessment: Chemistry

Program Strengths and Accomplishments:

The full-time faculty in the department is very active on campus committees. They serve as club advisors and volunteer for various on campus and off campus outreach activities. The department continues to increase and expand course offerings in high demand areas. Student access for chemistry classes has also increased by the various scheduling options presented to students i.e. Friday/Saturday classes. The department is to be commended for working with the faculty in the Health Science Division in developing courses and schedules to accommodate students pursuing allied health programs. Student surveys also reflect high satisfaction with the instruction they receive.

Program Goals and Objectives:

The department plans to meet the ever increasing student demand for quality chemistry instruction, especially in the area of organic chemistry which is a foundation course for students applying to professional schools. To improve the channels of communication, I would encourage the department to invite the counselor(s) to the department/Division meetings.

Other Issues Facing the Department:

The faculty is encouraged to continue its outreach activities in the elementary schools and where possible expand them to the middle/senior high level. The faculty is also encouraged to continue their participation in the process of developing Student Learning Outcomes for courses in the department. With an increase in student demand for science courses, the Dean has been requested to provide the Executive Vice President with various scenarios of how we could expand the science offerings/schedules to meet student needs if we hired an additional lab assistant. Even though operational costs have increased throughout the college, the cost to offer science courses is more expensive than offering traditional lecture classes. The Division may want to research a model other colleges use in establishing budgets for lab courses and recommend a model for the college to use for the science department. The college has allocated additional funds to support the Division. In addition to the one time budget requests, over the last four years, the Division has also been allocated an additional $25,000.