

October 31st, 2021

Dear Professor Eck,

I am submitting a vacancy request form for two full-time faculty in the Chemistry Department according to the Academic Senate process.

1. Title of position: Chemistry Professor (2)
2. Job description
Chemistry Professors are responsible for teaching various chemistry with laboratory classes; hold office hours; design and implement chemistry curriculum; participate in shared governance projects; and participate in all operational aspects of the chemistry department.
3. Not applicable
4. Yes
5. The Chemistry Department offers a required chemistry course (CHEM 192) for the Radiologic Technology Program. This is an accredited CTE program on campus. Consultation about curriculum changes are needed in some instances. Additionally, the Chemistry Department offers a required transfer chemistry course for majors such as Nursing, Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Allied Health This course, Chemistry for Health Science - CHEM 410, was originally developed in close collaboration with the Nursing Department at San Francisco State University to tailor specific needs. It is necessary to have at least one full-time faculty to ensure continuity and maintain the transferability of these courses.
6. The chemistry department provides educational opportunities for students to acquire discipline specific fundamental background and laboratory skills necessary to be successful in chemistry related fields. The chemistry department offers rigorous, adequate and updated course work to support all students in achieving their individual academic goals such as: Associate degree in Physical Sciences; preparation for transfer into STEM fields; preparation for transfer into career technological programs; general education; and personal enrichment. We are invested in providing equity and accessibility for all students and work closely with student support programs on campus to help us achieve that goal.
7. The Chemistry Department serves a large number of students seeking transfer into several science disciplines. Our fill rate is consistently high. Some classes, such as CHEM 210 and CHEM 410, have reached a fill rate above 100%, especially during the pandemic. In spring 2021, we reached a Load of 652 with a 97% fill rate. We expect the numbers to be higher for fall 2021. We are concerned that the department will lose its momentum if the two faculty members do not get replaced right away.
8. The Chemistry Department will lose its two full-time faculty members: Professor Robert Tricca and Professor Jeanette Medina. Professor Tricca maintains the large influx of general chemistry students. His last day is December 18th, 2021. Professor Medina maintains the large demand for CHEM 410 and ensures the Organic Chemistry sequence is accepted by all transfer schools. Her last day is May 28th, 2022. The department is currently working to expand the "take-home" laboratory kits initiative that showed tremendous accessibility and success in teaching lab skills online. There are several other plans for scheduling changes and curriculum development that require full-time faculty to make them happen.



Jeanette Medina,
Chemistry Professor