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**From:** Katz, David  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2013 10:34 AM  
**To:** Gilliland, Mary  
**Cc:** Weeks, Wendy; Kelley, Colleen; Nair, Padma; Kolchens, Silvia; Mergler, Mark; Harp, Donald; Albert, Louis; Lammers, Dee  
**Subject:** Laboratory issues

Hi Mary Kay,

This is a follow-up to our discussion of last week concerning laboratory issues. As I mentioned, these have been long-term ongoing issues.

The balances in the laboratory have not been serviced and calibrated since at least 2011. These are precision instruments that are used in every laboratory class and they must be maintained by a qualified technician on a regular basis of once each year. There are currently 6 balances out of service, sitting in the laboratory preparation area. That reduces the available instruments for each laboratory class. The last service, performed on the balances was by Analytical and Precision Balance Co., Inc. (Telephone 602-598-0321) Continued neglect will only result in more costly service.

One of our Spectronic 20 Genesis spectrophotometers is currently in need of repair and is relegated to collecting dust on a shelf in the laboratory preparation area. These instruments are used in several laboratory experiments and should be maintained in proper operating condition. It should be repaired or replaced in time for the Fall semester.

There are several hot plates that are in need of repair and are currently relegated to collecting dust on a shelf in the laboratory preparation area. Hot plates are used in almost all the laboratory classes during the semester. These may be repairable at a reasonable cost. Both Bear Holland and I have sufficient expertise to effect some of the needed repairs, and, if not, they should be sent out for repair or replaced, but there is no repair budget.

Distilled or deionized water is used to prepare solutions for all of our teaching labs, as well as in the all laboratory experiments. It is totally unreasonable that the deionized water units are located in the biology department and that the chemistry personnel can only access the water for short periods each day. As a major user of distilled or deionized water, there should be units located in the chemistry laboratory area. It would be in the best interests of our classes if units could be in place for the Fall semester.

There is no repair budget for instruments and equipment in the chemistry department. As a result, we have faced the loss of thousands of dollars of equipment over the past few years. Since this equipment is either used by our students or in the preparation of materials used by our students in the educational process, it seems only reasonable that a portion of the lab fees paid by the students should be allocated into a repair and/or replacement budget for critical equipment. A repair budget has been discussed for years with no action. That has only harmed the educational process in the chemistry laboratory program and it should be instituted in the very near future.

We have been faced with a crumbling infrastructure for several years. There has been an effort to clean up the chemistry area, but we cannot move forward if we cannot maintain the equipment and instrumentation we have.

David

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