

Dear Members of the SAC Academic Senate,

We are writing to bring to your attention some serious maintenance issues that have arisen in the Science Center Building at Santa Ana College. Since moving from Russel Hall to the Science Center Building in January of 2022, we have experienced a series of problems that have impacted curriculum, the health and safety of our faculty & students, the lab learning experience for students, as well as the ability for faculty to teach effectively. Additionally, we have had many building issues that affected the general environment and usage of the building which negatively impacts user experience and leaves a lasting impression on students, guests, staff, and faculty.

Our DI water system has been broken since 4/20/2023, and this weekend (5/6/2023), our chemical safety hoods have become inoperative. As you know, these systems are critical for our lab courses and lab safety processes, and without them, we are unable to provide our students with the necessary tools and experiences to learn and grow in their scientific, pre-health, and academic pursuits.

These ongoing issues are negatively impacting our curriculum and is a "10+1" issue. Our students are unable to perform necessary experiments to fulfill our Curriculum of Record (COR) requirements. We are not able to provide learning experiences that help students acquire fundamental hands-on lab skills which could negatively impact articulation.

Our dean, Saied Eidgahy, and Bart Hoffman have been very supportive with these ongoing issues. However, given the seriousness of these issues, the science faculty are requesting a meeting where District Facilities and SAC M&O present an overview of the Science Building maintenance plan. This overview meeting would allow for more dialog to help identify underlying problems/issues that may be contributing to the ongoing building maintenance issues, curriculum concerns due to building issues, safety concerns, & communication gaps between entities. In addition, this meeting could support the development of a comprehensive plan for addressing building issues in a timely and effective manner.

As faculty members and leaders in our academic community, we have a responsibility to advocate for the necessary resources and support to maintain a safe and effective learning environment. We urge the Academic Senate to support the Science Faculty as we continue to work with administration, facilities, M&O, and RSCCD in exploring ways to address these building issues to ensure that our science programs have the necessary infrastructure and resources to succeed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

- The Chemistry Department

- Jennifer McAdam, Crystal Jenkins, Stacey Littlejohn, & William Nguyen.
- The Biology Department
 - Charles Jang, Minhan Dinh, Jennie Beltran, Andrew Barrios, Jubal Hampton, Arjun Nair, Kimo Morris, Patty Oertel, & Kathy Takahashi.
- The Geology Department
 - Claire Coyne & Phil Hughes.
- The Physics/Astronomy Department
 - Mohamed Chakhad & Alexander Natale.