

**COSAM Accountability Committee Meeting Summary**  
**January 19, 2022**

**In attendance-** Kimberly Mulligan, Courtney Leisner, Steph Shepherd, Melissa Halford, Melinda Lanius, Vanessa Falcao

**COSAM Outreach led the discussion to discuss ways in which the departments can work with the office to support their inclusion, equity, and diversity goals.**

**The mission of the COSAM Outreach Office to promote scientific literacy\* and interest among K-12 students, teachers, and communities in our region, our state, and our nation.**

**Goals:**

- Encourage interest in the sciences in K-12 students
- Actively engage K-12 students and teachers in relevant and inspiring experiences in math & science
- Motivate K-12 students to reach their full potential in science by providing them with access to exciting, hands-on laboratory activities, enthusiastic science mentors, and a supportive environment that encourages their intellectual development
- Provide opportunities for Auburn University faculty, undergraduate, and graduate students to share their passion for science with a broad audience
- Provide professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers to improve the quality of math & science education

\*The use of "science" in the mission and goals statements represents both science and mathematics.

**1. Outreach Organizational Structure**

- a. STEM Outreach
- b. SCORE
- c. AMSTI

**2. Programs**

- a. **Faculty Incentive Program-** compensates faculty for their time by allowing them to register for programs based off the time they give to the office.
  - i. *What other programs would faculty like to see in order to be more involved in the office?*
- b. **Summer Science Institute-** great program but not very diverse; would love to see faculty that include this in their broader impact funding to specify that they would like to see the resources utilized for under-resourced and/or historically excluded student populations.
- c. **Outreach events-** when asking for assistance, this disproportionately falls on women faculty and non-tenured track faculty. *How do we change this? How do we make this mutually beneficial outside of money?*

3. **Faculty Perceptions**- How can departments work with the office to support their outreach goals?

- a. Could the office provide a list of schools or contacts, particularly for schools that are under-resourced, that departments can use when they want to plan outreach events?
- b. What is the value in participating in the programs? How can you make faculty understand the benefits of participation so that the same faculty aren't always the ones volunteering?
- c. Established expectations for participation; how can deans and chairs provide incentives for their faculty to participate? How is this work being recognized (annual reviews, promotion and tenure, etc.)?
- d. On Outreach website, have data so faculty can know what it cost per student to participate in their programs, boilerplate text for proposals, calendar for the year, etc.
- e. On the ADR website for proposal submission can a question be added to determine if faculty will need outreach support, at what level (letter or more), and what is the level of support that Outreach will receive from the proposal?

4. **Final Thoughts**

- a. Outreach currently does not have a say on which faculty receive outreach awards, this needs to change.