

## Stability Amidst Perturbation

### Pursuing Quality in the JCCC Mathematics Department 1969-2008

Steven J. Wilson

## The Title

- Stability
  - system will return to equilibrium
- Perturbation
  - a small deviation from equilibrium
- The JCCC Math department has shown stability of purpose in an ever changing environment

## Goals

- Lay out both sides of the issues which have shaped the department
- Answer the question: "Why are things the way they are?"
- Capture the memory of the early days, before all have left
- Honor all for the work done to improve the department

## Organization of the History

- Foreword
- Part 1: History
- Part 2: Courses
- Part 3: People
- Index

## A Wiktionary Definition

Sexennium

Sexenn|ium, -iŭ, noun [Latin],  
a space of six years

## 1969-1974: In the Beginning

- New college (1969)
- New campus (1972)
- Subunit of Electronics and Technology
- First 9 math faculty, all male
- First 14 courses
- Lucky Lottery (about 1973)

### 1975-1980: Course Proliferation

- New presidents
- 11 new courses (total 25)
- Pseudorandom course numbers
- Moderate growth (22% over 6 years)
- No change in full-time math faculty

### 1981-1986: The Winds of Change

- Moderate growth (28% over 6 years)
- 2 new positions (total 11)
- 5 new faculty (3 women)
- Math Resource Center (about 1983)
- Placement testing
- Current course numbering system (1984)
- 7 new courses, 12 deleted (total 20)
- Alternative course formats

### 1987-1992: Organizing during Explosive Growth

- Reorganization – SHCM Division
- Math becomes a program, with a director
- Explosive growth (84% over 6 years)
- 16 new positions (20 new faculty, total 27)
- Department committee structure
- C<sup>3</sup> instructors
- Professional development opportunities
- 2 new courses, 1 deleted (total 21)

### 1993-1998: Working through the Big Stink

- Moved to CLB
- Calculators: graphing vs. scientific
- Conflict: academic freedom vs. civility
- Committee restructuring
- No growth (less than 1% over 6 years)
- No new positions (2 new faculty, total 27)
- 2 new courses, 1 deleted (total 22)
- Internet

### 1999-2004: New Directions

- Moderate growth (31% in 6 years)
- 5 new positions (11 new faculty, total 32)
- 7 new courses, 1 deleted (total 28)
- Grade of C prerequisite
- 12-month, self-paced, Quick Step Plus
- Computers in the classroom

### 2005-2010: Reorganization (Again?)

- New presidents, assistant dean
- Reorganization of divisions
- Department bylaws
- 3 new positions (7 new faculty, total 35)
- 2 new courses, 1 deleted (total 29)

### Some Trivia

- 55 people have been full-time math faculty at JCCC
- 44 math courses have been listed in the JCCC catalog (with 90 numbers)
- The Lucky Lottery has been held roughly 70 times

### Process and Sources

- Math Program Reviews
- JCCC Catalogs
- Math Department Minutes
- Interviews
- Numerous miscellaneous records

### Feedback?

- Review and comment on the draft – now in SharePoint by August 31 (<https://infoshare.jccc.edu> , Mathematics > Math Policies and Procedures)
- If you want a copy, sign up