

MACTLAC

General Chemistry discussion group - ~~Saturday, October 24th~~

Bassam Shakhashiri - Convenor

Approximately 50^{were} in attendance

→ The discussion began with texts for general chemistry courses with perhaps one third indicating they are using the 5th edition of Masterton and Slowinski while the rest were spread among many other texts. The reasons for preferring various texts ranged from arrangement of material to quality of problems, level and selection of material, correlation with laboratory work, and readability. On that last point, one suggestion was to use sophomore students to review sample chapters of any text under consideration to see how they react to its readability.

For laboratory work, approximately one third used a published lab manual with the rest producing their own materials. The discussion then digressed for awhile into the area of legal liability of authors and instructors in laboratory situations, whether colleges have liability insurance to cover such possibilities, and the availability of liability insurance through the ACS.

A recurrent theme was the life cycle of texts as they progress through various editions, some retaining their essential vitality through many editions while others evolve in directions that lose their past audience.

Brock Spencer, Scribe