

Astronomy Department Meeting

Meeting was held on October 8, 2009 from 1:00-1:50 pm in the Planetarium.

Attendees: Vincent Lloyd, Perry Hacking, Jean Shankweiler, Dave Vakil

Minutes were taken by J. Shankweiler

SLO's

Vincent brought the list of 4 program level SLO's proposed during the spring flex day. He reworked the original 5 statements into 4 statements: EM radiation, Scientific Method, Seasons, Solar System Formation. After some discussion, it was decided to proceed with the Scientific Method SLO, and develop a course level SLO for each of the 5 courses, and fold that into the program level SLO. J. Shankweiler will forward the Life Science and Earth Science statements to use as a model.

Curriculum

Astronomy 20, 25 and 13 all need to be reviewed for the 2009-2010 year. The astronomers decided to have a lunch meeting to discuss 20/25.

Foundation Proposal

Perry has a quote from Zach Power. He spoke to Mr. Power and emphasized we want to make sure the system will work this time before we order. Mr. Power is supposed to be testing the system. Perry will call him for an update.

Spring 2010 Schedule

The cuts for spring are extensive. Two 20's, a 25 and 12 will need to be cut. Jean is contacting part timers affected.

Department Chairs

The discussion proceeded on whether or not the department would support department chairs. There has been some email discussion. The opinion was divided, with 2 in favor, 1 opposed.

Whiddon Plaque

The South Bay Astronomical Society has donated a scholarship and a plaque for the Planetarium. After some discussion, it was decided to hang the plaque in the lobby. Dave will contact SBAS.

Great Shake

The Great Shake Out will be on Thursday, October 15 at 10:15am. Vincent has class at this time. The group examine the walkie-talkies, making sure all knew how to operate and also the location for evacuation was clarified – the lawn outside the Planetarium, near Math, by the cherry trees.

Other

Facilities – The men's restroom is closed, no one knows why. The lights seem to be getting dimmer. Jean will contact Jon Franz from East Coast. They were supposed to come out in the summer to optimize. Perry suggested we purchase some floodlights and place them throughout the room to help as a temporary measure. The ladder is missing from the Planetarium and facilities doesn't have it. Dave suggested we purchase a ladder using the \$100 Perry has from the SBAS. It was decided that an 8foot ladder would be best. Perry will pick one up using the SBAS money. Also, we need a plaque for Dave Pierce. Perry volunteered to check some companies for cost. The humidity still fluctuates. Dave found out the recommended humidity is no greater than 60%. Jean will check with Bruce

Hoerning to find out the volume of the room and pursue finding the size of dehumidifier needed. The LCD projector is failing and a new one will need to be purchased.

SBAS meetings – A host is needed for the January 8 meeting. Vince asked for a meeting schedule to be placed in the back office. Dave will print a schedule.

Non Payment of Fees – This fall a policy of dropping students for nonpayment of fees will be implemented. The deadline will be published. Jean reposted students will be notified using ECC email and asked instructors to encourage students to check this email often. Announcements will be published for students.