

Astronomy Department Meeting

Meeting was held on Thursday, March 11 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 Update

The program level assessment was developed on flex day and will focus on the Greek controversy of heliocentric vs geocentric theories as an example of the Scientific Method. P. Hacking will write up the assessment tool to be used by all department members. The assessment will be done this semester by all sections of astronomy courses.

Curriculum Timelines

The faculty members looked at the last review dates for all the astronomy curriculum and developed a cycle for course review that should satisfy the College Curriculum committee.

Fall/Summer 2010 Schedule

One last review was made for the fall 2010 schedule. It seems fine. For summer 2010, P. Hacking is scheduled for Physics 2B. He is likely not going to teach the course and will notify the division office next week.

Block Grant Equipment

The department received \$1000 from Block Grant funds to purchase a new finder telescope for the observatory. V. Lloyd will research the equipment and get the purchasing information to the division office so they can build the requisition. J. Shankweiler pointed out the requisition must be done before April 1, so it needs to be done before this time.

Foundation Grant

Perry did reach Zach Power about the quote for upgrading the monitors, and getting the supporting computers to run the video programs efficiently. He was told that the technology looks like it will finally support what we want to do. P. Hacking will contact Zach Power again to get the quote and specs.

Astro-Imaging Conference

L. Palmer and P. Hacking are working to organize an Astro-Imaging conference on April 25. Perry wants to have a contest for the best images. He will get more information to the division office to reserve rooms and notify the campus police.

Program Review

D. Vakil is still working on Program Review. Some items of concern he wants to include are the increasing the number of Astronomy 20 sections and decreasing the number of Astronomy 25 sections. Success and retention data seem to show the students are more successful in Astro 20. V. Lloyd wants to reactivate Astronomy 100, that should be included as well. He believes this is a better choice for most students.

Other - Facilities

- The LED projector no longer works and instructors are using the old one. J. Shankweiler indicated there are many projectors and computers breaking down in the division. She needs a way to replace all, not just room by room.
- GOTOS Projector is making a very loud disturbing noise when the elevator goes down. Jean will need to contact John Hare to find out what can be done, a get an estimate of costs. She will contact Dr. Arce to see if he can help financially.
- The front door was found unlocked on Tuesday morning. Jean will contact the instructor from Monday night to remind them to check the doors.
- Plumbing – the water still stinks.

3/11/10 jms