

PHYSICS/ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Phys 101

Attendees: J. Coroneus, D. Wright, J. Shankweiler, S. Stolovy, E. Goldmann, V. Lloyd, S. Prieto

1. Facilities/Safety

- Eyal and Susan noted that in an emergency faculty are directed to lock doors from inside. This is not possible on the current doors. They must be locked and unlocked from the outside.
- Send information to safety committee.
- These suggestions need to be put into annual plan.
- Panic buttons or intercoms in the classroom would be a good idea

2. Curriculum

- Physics 1A/1C discussed, and an email was received from College Curriculum committee.
- 7 hours study for Physics 1A/1C, to justify half hour of problem solving related to homework in that time with the lecture hour. Would not be done with only 3 hour lecture.
- Physics 1B is up for review in spring and we will need to review study hours for justification, fewer hours and credit. Eyal wants to review curriculum and compare to 1B classes at other colleges, 5 hour to 3 hour lecture/2lab. Jean will consult with curriculum committee.

3. Planning

- Program plans—no Tracdat information yet—convert to word document.

4. SLO Assessments

- Still learning TracDat
- PLO—Physics #1 this fall, Astronomy SLO#1 and Leon's Astronomy 12 waiting for Leon's assessment.
- A norming session is scheduled for November 13. The workshop is designed so faculty can get practice evaluating assessments, especially to provide data and action items.
- This is the conceptual SLO. It seems like students learn the equations first and the concepts come later. They need to see the concept over and over.
- It seems this is how students learn the concepts, after the math.
- See progression from 2A-1A-1BCD, maybe not assessing to find that.
- Susan Prieto said, maybe we need to do the same assessment in all classes.
- Susan Stolovy, no it needs tweaking. Assessment needs to be changed.

- John Coroneus suggested the select be changed to circle all that apply. Susan thought it should be something the student has to analyze.
- Susana thought the slo should be separated and make another question.
- Maybe the department should tweak now while it's fresh in our minds.
- Prieto-have already changed sketch, it was a bit off, will share with everyone.
- For problem Stolovy—next semester, analyze test problem for 1A. Everyone should do the same problem force for Physics 1A.

5. Reubens Tube

- Dan demonstrated the standing wave using the Reuben's tube apparatus.

6. Hiring

- Part time announcement for Physics in spring, Eyal will help

7. Courses

- Still debating Physics 12, should it be offered in the summer or not.

8. Equipment

- Chairs for common area need to be appropriate height.
- White board for office area

9. Other

- Astronomy equipment was approved from the VP block grant. Jean needs the information to order. Dan has started ordering the physics items.
- Solar eclipse—Thursday afternoon October 23 (2:10-4:40pm)
- Astronomy club will have solar telescope out.