

Physics Department Meeting
September 17, 2009

Present: Leon Leonardo, Norm Kadomoto, Eyal Goldmann, Susana Prieto, Dan Wright, Jean Shankweiler, Mahbub Khan

Department Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the May 21, 2009 physics department meeting were approved.

Program Review

There is a Program Review orientation session today at this time and on Tuesday, September 22 at 1pm in room Adm 127. S. Prieto indicated she will attend the meeting on Tuesday. The department will need to meet outside of regular, official department meetings in order to get organized and input from all.

SLO

S. Prieto attended the NS Division SLO meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 15. The department currently has slo statements for all of the physics courses. The next step is to assess the program level SLO. This should include all of the courses being taught and as many of the sections as possible. There was some discussion about how to include all the sections, even those taught by part-time instructors. S. Prieto described how she was able to get assessments for Physics 3A and 3B, both taught by part-time instructors. The next department meeting will focus on the development of a 6-year cycle to assess 2-4 SLO's for all courses in the department.

Curriculum

The Physics Department is up-to-date on all curriculum review.

Academic Senate

D. Vakil has asked all departments to address the following questions for the Academic Senate.

#1 – Should the Academic Senate pursue the creation of a department chair model?

Responses – the dept said yes, pursue, but it was not a strong yes. Questions arose as to if departments would be required to have a department chair and would there be a minimum size for a department to have a chair. How would they be chosen?

#2 – What would be the role(s) [or purpose] of a department chair?

Responses – Roles would include orientations for part-time faculty and scheduling classes and classified staff. Are there issues for faculty to supervise classified personnel?

Equipment

J. Shankweiler requested a list of equipment used each semester in labs that should be tested or checked before their use in lab. The cleaning, repair and upkeep of the equipment will be divided up for technicians to work on. Recently, Leon wanted to use a piece of equipment and 3 of 8 pieces did not work.

The Great Shake-Out: Thursday, October 15 at 10:15am

Faculty and staff were notified of the time and date for the earthquake drill. Please plan accordingly. It is a good idea to let classes know in advance. The drill will be publicized anyway. Dan Wright is a floor leader and there will be a meeting for floor leaders in the next couple of weeks. The physics classrooms should all evacuate to the Science Courtyard.

Spring 2010 Schedule

The division needs to cut 8 sections from the winter/spring schedule. The merits of winter vs spring were discussed. The merits of Phys 2A versus Phys 11 were discussed. Census information and completion data from Spring 2009 were consulted. It was decided to eliminate the winter section of Physics 11 for now. Cutting 2A impacts the next step for too many students. Next year, the wisdom of offering Physics 2A in a 5-week winter format will be discussed.

Submitted: jms 9/17/09