

# Minutes

of the Physics Department meeting  
held on Wednesday, Feb 26, 2014 in UH168.

Present: Benjamin, Boukahil, Constantinescu, Nawash, Sahyun, Rybski, Yavuzcetin  
Absent: None

- I. Benjamin called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.
- II. Rybski/Nawash moved to approve the minutes of Feb 19, 2014 meeting. Motion passed.
- III. Old Business
  - a. The department reviewed the CAP requests prepared by Sahyun and Rybski. Rybski/Nawash proposed the adoption of the list with six three-voltage power supplies, 26 electroscopes and two ballistic pendulum experiments. Motion passed.
  - b. The department reviewed progress on identifying internships opportunities for our students:
    - i. *Forte*: Nawash waiting to visit (Mar 19) and contact representatives personally.
    - ii. *Kreisher Optics*: Sahyun will contact soon.
    - iii. *NASCO*: Yavuzcetin spoke with Kevin Hart who was in favor of arranging an internship, but staff had concerns about students working in the research and development labs. NASCO was interested in students developing posters as an unpaid internship. These posters would have a UW-W logo and the student developer name.
    - iv. *Birdseye/Pinnacle*: Rybski contacted Jake Jarzynski who reminded us that the faculty is welcome for a departmental tour. Jake is checking on whether an internship is available. They are receiving applications, so we may want students to apply just in case.
    - v. *Rayovac*: Constantinescu left phone message and e-mail. No answer back.
    - vi. *Mad City Labs and N-Point*: Boukahil contacted N-Point and has plans to talk with them further at the March APS meeting. There was no response from Mad City Labs, but they may also be present at the same meeting.
    - vii. *Generac*: Benjamin has tried to follow-up on the result of a June 2012 meeting Rybski had with Generac reps, trying to find contacts for these reps. No results yet.

- c. Alisa Haas is looking for Science outreach volunteers. Physics department volunteers include
  - i. Science Discovery Day (Apr 11 8:30-2:30, K-8, on campus):  
Constantinescu, Nawash, Sahyun
  - ii. Rockwell Elementary (Mar 13, 6-7:30pm, Ft Atkinson):  
Yavuzcetin and Sahyun
  - iii. Whitewater Family Science Night( Mar 19, evening):  
Sahyun
  - iv. Earth Day (Apr 22, noon-2pm K-5, on campus): Sahyun
- d. Sahyun is also planning on doing an activity with Nature's Classroom Montessori on a future Tuesday. Benjamin expressed interest in visiting a few high schools in Madison.
- e. Boukahil updated the department on the status of the Departmental Standards for Promotion and Tenure. We will be on the CSC agenda on Mar 13 to reapprove our standards. This will include the originally requested 3.5 evaluations scores for satisfactory teaching performance. This is in line with our historical averages for the departmental course evaluations.
- f. Discussion of revision of Exit Interviews was postponed
- g. There was no other old business.

#### IV. New Business

- a. Benjamin provided updates on the status of student scholarship applications. One question that arose was how to award (and document) a Toshiba laptop donated to the department by Frank and Shirley Stekel.
- b. Other New Business

#### V. Announcements

- a. Chair's Announcements
  - i. Administrative Council
    - 1. A second round of equipment (list provided by Physics in Fall 2013) may be purchased by the Provost. It is not clear what happened from the first round, but the top three physics priorities were a service contract for the SEM, new computers for upper level labs, and new computers for Upham 58.
    - 2. Thirteen lab mod requests sent in; eleven are eligible. Non-selected items will be added to the Provost lists.

3. Student wage requests due (well before) March 15. Dean Travis lobbied for one request for the entire year, as opposed to summer and semester requests being separate. This will cover the entire fiscal year (Jul 1 to whenever). This money can be used to support student research.
  4. When students stop attending class (and fail), there is supposed to be a way to mark down when they stop attending (for financial aid purposes). Stay tuned.
  5. [www.uww.edu/academics/departments-and-majors](http://www.uww.edu/academics/departments-and-majors) Take a look at Fact sheet, learning goals, etc.
  6. Dean Travis reported on the CLS discussion on work/life balance. There will probably be a subcommittee to focus on this in the future. One key point was that faculty should be sure to set clear boundaries for student interactions at the beginning of the semester and departments should support and respect these boundaries.  
Yavuzcetin attended from our department.
- ii. Please give Patti your CV to enter information into Digital Measures. We're approaching the point where we can start to use this to generate the data needed for annual reports.
  - iii. Computer Science is creating a new "Comprehensive Emphasis" that provides a balanced 69 credits of CompSci and Math classes. This includes a two sequence series of introductory classes in Physics, Chem, or Bio.
  - iv. Occupational Health and Safety is developing a Special topics class, Safety 496, "Industrial Ventilation", that has Physics 130 as a pre-requisite.
  - v. Benjamin and Sahyun submitted a Lab Modification request on Feb 21 to request new computers in Upham 58.
  - vi. Reminder that the last day to drop a course (with a W) is this Friday, Feb 28. If you have any students who should consider this, let them know soon.
  - vii. Benjamin has asked Filipiak (ADA) to send department members a reminder about the leave report. Note that it is still unclear if all leave reporting has been transferred to me.

viii. Benjamin reminded you to take a survey on your use of teaching and learning technologies by Mar 7 (survey takes about 15 minutes):  
<http://www.uwsa.edu/olit/luwexec/projects>.

- b. University, College and Department Committee Reports
- i. International Education Committee (Nawash, Feb 7) has been discussing the wording for the rules to which students should adhere to when writing their international experience report.
  - ii. University Center board Committee (Nawash, Feb 7) discussed next year's budget.
  - iii. Graduate Council (Yavuzcetin, Feb 6) noted FTE enrollments were declining 2012 compared to 2013, discussed graduate research grants, and deleted old courses and made course title changes.
  - iv. Curriculum committee (Sahyun, Feb 20) noted that course proposals for Spring 2015 are due by March 12.
- c. Yavuzcetin has received a Summer 2014 grant for \$1200 from the Women & Science Program, "Inclusion of Student-Centered Pedagogies in STEM Courses" program for new STEM educators. This is to develop new laboratories for our Physics 130 course.
- d. Benjamin attended an ad hoc meeting discussing the possibility of UW-Whitewater proposing to host the Wisconsin Space Grant program either on an interim basis (next year) or into the future.
- e. Sahyun attended the University Assessment day (Tues, Feb 25) and shared some impressions with the department.

VI. Nawash/Boukahil moved to adjourn at 6:39. Motion passed

Submitted by B. Benjamin, secretary of the day

Cc: Dean David Travis