

Minutes

For the Physics Department meeting
held on Thursday, August 27, 2015 in UH168.

Present: Benjamin, Boukahil, Constantinescu, Nawash, Sahyun, Rybski, Yavuzcetin

- I. Call to order at 2:00 pm
- II. Rybski/Boukahil moved approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- III. Old Business
 - a. All advisors should have the information sheets on Year 3 and Year 4 physics majors. Please check on their enrollment, their advising report, and let the chair know which semester they plan to graduate. Rybski (as Department Master Advisor) will be double-checking for problems or potential issues.
 - b. Benjamin agreed that in the future, we will ask our ADA to save a copy of the “yellow” sheets for recommended classes, and then check if the students have enrolled for the recommended classes on Monday, the week before the start of classes. She will contact advisors if she identifies any discrepancies between the recommendation and the student registration.
 - c. Rybski pointed out that there are new Degree Planning Guides for the College of L&S. He pointed out that every one of our students should have these!
 - d. Benjamin discussed progress on revising schedule plans for the Spring Semester 2016. The Curriculum committee responsibilities this Fall will be handled by Yavuzcetin (2-3 pm) and Boukahil (3-4 pm).
 - e. The department reviewed our past department goals and talked about goals for this academic year. The following goals were set for 2015-2016:
 - i. Re-activate the Physics Department Advisory Council consisting of alumni and industry representatives [Benjamin/Rybski].
 - ii. Continue to refine and develop our new lab assessment program. [Sahyun/Nawash/Rybski/Yavuzcetin].
 - iii. Develop on-campus/off-campus astronomy outreach program in coordination with Science Outreach coordinator [Rybski/Constantinescu/Benjamin].
 - iv. Update and Improve Department Website, including information on Faculty Research programs [Nawash/Sahyun/Benjamin].
 - v. Introduce MATLAB into student course assignments. [Sahyun/Constantinescu].

- vi. Get a Departmental Linked-In Profile [Nawash/Rybski].
- vii. Increase the Number of Student Internships [Yavuzcetin/Rybski].
- viii. Go through a full curricular review during Winterim [Boukahil/Sahyun/Yavuzcetin/Rybski].

IV. New Business

- a. Benjamin discussed the uses of Digital Measures to track faculty accomplishments and asked all faculty measure to update their records on www.digitalmeasures.com/login/uww/faculty/.
- b. There was no Other New Business

V. Announcements

a. Chair's Announcements

- i. Kaia Fowler (fowlerk@uww.edu, x1703) from CoBE is looking for volunteers to do a technical review of an invention by high school students that they want to pitch to NASA. Benjamin and Yavuzcetin expressed interest.
- ii. Benjamin handed out a list of all of our eleven dual degree students with UW-Madison. By engineering disciplines, the breakdown is electrical engineering (Komas 2010, Kubicek 2010, Yameogo 2013, Koller in process), civil engineering (Wendt 2011, Beronja 2012), mechanical engineering (Julius 2012, Engel 2012, Thanholt 2014, Holzer in progress), and engineering mechanics (McCarthy 2013).
- iii. Nawash, Sahyun, Yavuzcetin and Benjamin attended an information session on the Wisconsin "Regional Materials and Manufacturing Network" organized by Prof. Tom Kuesch (UW-Madison). The Department of Physics is very interested in getting involved in this and await communication from Dean Travis about who will be our campus representative. Interested faculty are strongly encouraged to attend the 2015 Regional Materials and Manufacturing Symposium on Sep 21, 2015 in UW-Eau Claire which will have networking, academic and industry speakers, and a student poster session.
- iv. Next department meeting is Wed, Sept. 23. The consultation for Dr. Yavuzcetin will be the previous week on Wed, Sept. 16.

b. Other announcements

- i. Yavuzcetin handed out the tentative Physics 190 schedule for this fall. He requests that other faculty get involved in hosting the speakers. The Nanosymposium will be on Oct 23 this year.
- ii. Constantinescu announced that she has arranged for a visiting astrophysicist (Dr. Jillian Bellovary) as part of the American Astronomical Society Shapley Lecture Series. Dr. Bellovary will give a public presentation on Thurs night, Nov. 12 and a talk to physics majors on Fri, Nov. 13.
- iii. Sahyun reminded the faculty that 2015 is the International Year of Light.
- iv. Rybski announced that he is currently putting together a program for the Fall Observatory Lecture Series.

VI. Boukahil/Nawash moved adjournment. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm

Submitted by B. Benjamin, secretary of the day
Cc: Dean David Travis