

Minutes

of the Physics Department meeting
held Wednesday January 23, 2013 in UH168.

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

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm.
- II. Rybski/Benjamin moved to approve the December 12, 2012 minutes. Motion approved.
- III. Announcements
 - a. Chair's Announcements
 - i. Dept. Budget update: due to a miscalculation, the department over-spent the semester allotment for tutors last semester; there should have only been 3 hrs, not 4 hrs per class so there are currently only funds for 2 hrs of student tutoring and lab set-up per week for 130, 140, 141, 112-1, 112-2, and for the 181 LA program. Sahyun will ask Travis for additional student worker funds to increase the tutoring availability.
 - ii. Remember to post your syllabi on-line at: <http://courses.uww.edu/syllabi> . It is recommended that you also post them on D2L or on the Physics Department Web site.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Nanophysics position search update. Initial review of applicants will be at a meeting at 4 pm Friday, Jan. 25.
 - b. SCH/FTE for the department will be emailed and there can be a virtual discussion on ways to increase the ratio.
 - c. Student Exit interview responses will be emailed to faculty so that we can review their responses as part of an ongoing commitment to self-evaluation and assessment.
 - d. The Physics major emphases need curricular revisions with respect to the CompSci changes approved 12/5/2012. Sahyun will work on getting the forms for departmental approval. The electronics courses will also need curricular changes to reflect proposed changes to content and requisites.
- V. New Business
 - a. Equipment requests
 - i. Soldering irons for modern, optics, and electronics were discussed. These will be investigated.

- ii. Finding robust multimeters for the introductory labs will also need to be investigated. Silver pens for the electrostatics lab activity were discussed; Boukahil ordered three but they are to be used with care due to cost.
- iii. There was a discussion about providing compensation for faculty who have independent research students (those enrolled in 498R courses.) Benjamin will draft a policy proposal to be added to the department by-laws. The general sentiment was that when faculty accumulate 30 student credit hrs. of supervising 498R students, this would be equivalent to a 3 cr. course release/overload for compensation. In order that the faculty member to count the student supervision credit, the faculty member would need to show that students engaged in 498R courses have provided evidence for research output through a summative paper or a talk or poster presentation at an undergraduate or professional conference. There was some debate as to the application of this policy retroactively.

VI. Announcements

- i. Benjamin: There was a press release on January 8, 2013 at the American Astronomical Society meeting which highlights a paper that Benjamin is co-author on. The press release is at: <http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/news/2013/pr201302.html> . The lead author is Prof. Alyssa Goodman of Harvard University. The project involves data from the Spitzer Space Telescope GLIMPSE project and it agrees with the artist's picture of the Milky Way that Benjamin developed in 2008.
- ii. Alexandre Fernandes, one of our physics majors, has won a national award at the annual winter meeting of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) held Jan 7-10, 2013 in Long Beach, CA. Alexandre won a Chambliss Award (Honorable Mention) for his poster presentation "Constraints on the Orbit of High Velocity Cloud Complex A". This puts his poster in the top ten of hundreds of undergraduate presentations at the principal yearly meeting of North American astronomers. His poster presented dynamical calculations of an ensemble of clouds in a Galactic gravitational potential that reproduce the principal features of a circumgalactic gaseous stream orbiting the Milky Way. This stream is currently visible at night from Whitewater. The poster was first presented at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Undergraduate Research Day on Sept 20, 2012. Alexandre was one of two UW-Whitewater students presenting at this national meeting.
- iii. Martin Gostisha, another of our physics majors, also presented an analysis of a multi-year survey of the ionized plasma above and below the Galactic disk at the AAS meeting. His analysis of nearly 10,000 spectra shows an extensive "atmosphere" of gas stretching above the spiral arms of the Milky Way, and will provide the basis for a future investigation using the Hubble Space Telescope.

VII. Rybski/Boukhail moved to adjourn at 12:56 pm. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven
Sahyun

Secretary of the day

cc: Dean Pinkerton