

Meeting of the Department of Physics

Wednesday, October 28, 2009 | 5310 Chamberlin Hall

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Baha Balantekin, Department Associate Chair at 12:15 PM with 21 voting members present.

Action Items Approved:

- **Objection to the UW Furlough Program**—The Department of Physics will be sent to UW administration, the faculty senate, and to other large L&S research departments.

1. Announcements

- **Request to Dean for new Hires**—We will be submitting a Madison Initiative proposal for two new experimental faculty hires and to add one more lecture to Physics 103. This could add 300 more students to Physics 103.

2. Climate Committee Survey Results

- The results are back from the climate survey. Here are some of the comments:
 - Poor physical appearance of the Physics Department, especially the hallways and the cleanliness. Janitorial services have been cut across campus.
 - Classified staff do not feel appreciated. Baha is going to do pizza lunches for the administrative staff to talk about issues and concerns.
 - Mentoring Issues—there is a discrepancy in mentoring for both faculty and grad students. Some is related to unit and/or faculty member.
 - People want to improve the diversity of the department, especially in regards to graduate recruitment. Some efforts have been made to develop a relationship with the National Society of Black Physicists and the National Society of Hispanic Physicists.
 - Some feel that staff is isolated and that there is a lack of social interaction. It was suggested that faculty and staff use the “cookie time” (Monday-Thursday in 5280 Chamberlin at 3:30). AOF plans social events to help minority graduate students with isolation.

3. HVAC Update

Phase 1

Week	First day	Floor
Week 1	November 2	Floor 3
Week 2	November 9	Floor 2
Week 3	November 16	Floor 5
Week 4	November 23	Floor 1
Week 5	November 30	Floor 4
Week 6	December 7	Floor 6

- Barriers will be going up this week.
- You will need to be out of your office for the entire week that your area is scheduled. Please prepare your office before Monday of the week that construction starts in your area. It is **IMPORTANT** that desks, bookshelves, computers, etc. that are below one of the ceiling VAV boxes that will be replaced, be moved out of the way. The location of the ceiling boxes has been marked in almost all rooms with yellow or red tape on the ceiling. You can also locate the boxes on the floor plans sent by email.
- If you need help preparing your area, please contact Jean Johnson.
- If you will need access to your office during the week of construction, please contact Jean Johnson.
- Seminar rooms will not be available for the entire 6-week period. 2301 Sterling and 1328 Sterling will be available using the same procedures as other seminar rooms.

4. Objection to the UW Furlough Program—Lawler

- Jim Lawler moved that the Department of Physics voice its objections to the University’s furlough plan. Gilbert and Forest seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote. The Department of Physics will be sent to UW administration, the faculty senate, and to other large L&S research departments.

The meeting was adjourned.