

Minutes of the Physics Department Meeting, Friday, 15 December 2006
Called to order by Susan Coppersmith, 12.15 p.m., Chamberlin 5310
Minutes by Lynn Rettig, Chair's Assistant.

1. Matters Arising:

A short discussion on the possibility/feasibility of moving future Qualifier Exams one week earlier in the semester because of requests by graduate students. This matter was referred to the Graduate Program Committee. The Spring 2007 qualifying exam will be on February 17, 2007 in 2241 Chamberlin.

2. Building Updates:

a.) Building News: Once the construction and remodeling is completed in 2009, Sterling Hall will be "temporarily" used by the Education and Human Resources Departments. The Space Committee will be meeting and making their recommendations for the final usage of Sterling Hall to the powers that be after the remodeling in the near future. Please direct your wishes, and detailed plans to a member of the Space committee. A person from the Plasma area is needed to sit on the Space Committee. Cary Forest agreed to serve if no other Plasma person is available.

The previously scheduled meeting with the architects (last Tuesday) was cancelled, another is tentatively scheduled for next week.

b.) Other news: The UW has received the Van Vleck (both John and E. B.) papers and medals as a gift. Professor Chun Lin is sorting them for display cases in the Physics Library. The library is currently proposed as the space to house the Nobel medal. Security is an issue.

3. Instrument & Electronics Shop Committee Report, Dan McCammon:

a.) The new Shop Supervisor is Doug Dummer, who comes to us from Madison Kipp Company. He has experience in design, electronics, and the like, and we are hopeful that he will be successful in attracting outside business to improve the finances of the Instrument Shop.

b.) Master Plan/Discussions: One position has become available in the shop because of Mike Murray's passing. The report of the ad-hoc departmental staffing committee chaired by Thad Walker and approved by the department recommended that when his position became available, it be converted to a position for a student shop supervisor who would also provide emergency back up Steve Narf in lecture/demo and Joe Sylvester in undergrad lab setup. Jim Reardon reported concerns expressed by Billy Gates and Joe Sylvester that there is too much work for the electronics shop to be done by one person. Thad Walker mentioned that many things that are currently being built in the electronics shop can be purchased. The matter was referred to the Instrument and Electronics Shop committee, and it will determine the replacement's duties that is the best use of the department's resources.

4. Discussions:

a.) Certificate in Physics: The proposal to offer a Certificate in Physics was discussed. Prof. Balantekin did a quick summary of the discussion at the last meeting, in which considerable support was voiced for the proposal that the requirements be that a

student can take 18 credits at the 200 or higher level, period. Prof. Carlsmith argued for the original proposal that included a listing of “suggested” courses. Final vote motion: Certificate in Physics would be defined as 18 credits taken in Physics above 200 level courses. A hand vote was passed with 30 for and 5 against. Mary Anne Clarke will be working on the formal proposal for the L&S curriculum committee.

b.) Moving the Fall Picnic date: Currently, the Fall Picnic is held the Saturday of Labour Day weekend, before the start of classes at 5:30pm. Jane Schimmel has requested the flexibility to change the date and starting time (to 4pm). The consensus was that such changes are OK, with the constraints that the date stay in September and that the picnic not be the weekend of the Qualifying exam..

5. Presentation by Chris Glueck, UW Foundation Representative:

Mr. Glueck covered the importance of private gifts; how to be a “participant”; there will be a payroll deduction sheet in your mailboxes soon; pre-addressed envelopes are available in the main office from Lynn.

a.) Awareness: Meeting with alumni, families of students and former students when traveling; hospitality suites at conferences; professors traveling to conferences and seminars could possibly meet with donors, alumni/possible donors. Help him find donors: lists of former students, faculty, scientists, etc. Let Chris know who they are for contacts and cultivation. Stewardship of gifts: Thank – you letters from recipients; relationship building; continuity building; fund-raising; external relations committee; Jean Buehlman.

b.) Questions: If a faculty member has to give a talk in a specific area of the country/world, can the Foundation look up Physics grads in the area and help set up a meeting(s)? Yes, and they will also work with the WAA (WI Alumni Association) to locate people, and send out invitations to meet and greet the faculty member.

c.) Contacting Chris Glueck: If you have more questions, or have some names for him to add to his contact lists, please e-mail him at: chris.glueck@uwfoundation.wisc.edu

6. Balance of meeting was closed to tenured faculty only to discussion personnel matters.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.