

To: Faculty and Staff
From: Susan Coppersmith-Physics Dept Chair
Date, Time and Place. January 26, 2007, 12:15 p.m. Room 5310 Chamberlin Hall

Topics:
Announcements-Coppersmith

Building Report-Huber

Enrollment Report-Clarke

Discussion of Colloquium day and time-Gilbert

Admissions Committee Report-Joynt

Discussion of solicitation of Alumni and Emeritus Awards nominees-Pondrom

Discussion of the NRC Survey

Called meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

Susan Coppersmith- on announcements:

Congratulations to Del Marshall and Bret Underwood for being selected to receiving L&S teaching awards.

Awards banquet is May 4, 2007 at the Fluno Center.

Qualifying exam is February 17, 2007. Morning session starts at 9:30-11:30 am. Afternoon session 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Room 2241 Chamberlin Hall. Students should plan on arriving at least 15 minutes early, graphing calculators are allowed. Students with any special needs should contact Jane Schimmel at jane@mail.physics.wisc.edu on or before February 9th if any special accommodations are required. Sign-up sheet is outside the grad office in room 2320.

Merit exercise-CV's are for the salary exercise. All other data collection is to support the NRC survey.

Building Report:

Sue Coppersmith turned over meeting to Dave Huber to report on the building. Remodeling of first floor-substantial completion by April 1—window project is moving on the north and west elevations. Final check in a few weeks. East elevation project outside is ok what is not complete in the east area are the metal inserts linking old side walls to the new outside wall. Problems exist and the inserts don't fit properly. More will need to be done and therefore the project is open. Replacement of roof for Rennebohm will be done this summer, more coming later. Should be done by start of fall classes.

Heating system in central core is in queue, but we don't have a deadline. News: remodeling for Sterling. Multiple PDF options provided to Dave. Work will begin early 2008. Plan is "lite" remodeling for "old Sterling", radiators, windows stay the same, other mechanicals will be reviewed including handicap access. Roof in courtyard will be replaced. Below the roof work is undetermined. East wing (1959) part of building will be gutted, options for us: basement will be occupied by physics in part. Floor one and other occupancy is undetermined. Work to be ongoing until 2010. Education will be taking over most of building. Options are being presented to the space committee, fourth floor options may be available for theory and conference room. Talk to Mark Rzchowski if you have a request. Vacate Sterling date is not finalized. More work has to be done with space management. Sterling work will begin late this year. Courtyard timeline is about a yr. East wing approx. 2 to 2.5 years. New elevator at Northwest corner. Freight elevator will be closed for renovation. Safety is an issue and removal of excess equipment will be necessary. After 2008 Astronomy will move into old building; then they will move back to 1959 part.

Enrollment Report: Enrollments are slightly up. Mary Anne Clarke reports 201 appears to be stabilized. Most introductory courses are up. Course 107 enrollment is down. Bernice Durand says it's lowest enrollment in 35 years. Some considerations for the lower enrollment numbers were discussed. Time of day may be a consideration: 107 was moved to 8:50am to avoid a conflict between Physics and Chemistry honors courses. 107 will be offered later in the day in future semesters. Course 248 is also going down—this was considered an anomaly.

Thad Walker-Mike Murray passed away last month, and Thad suggests we have a memorial resolution to honor him for the appreciation for his work. Thad Walker will draft the resolution. Voted unanimously yes to proceed.

Colloquium day and time discussion. Proposed to move colloquium back to Fridays. Dan McCammon commented that there are more conflicts with classes on Wednesday, and that attendance may be higher on Friday. Baha would like to move to Friday, reason: hard on speakers. Travel cuts into three days of the week. If moved to Friday may improve some speaker availability. Preference ballot via email to determine if we want to move from Wednesday 4:00 p.m. to Friday, specific time was point of discussion. Majority hand vote at the meeting was to move to Friday, but email ballot will be held.

Suggested action is to perform attendance counts at colloquium to determine how many people attend the Wednesday colloquium for the remainder of this semester and to compare the attendance for the colloquia next semester.

The results of the email vote for the colloquium date and time are as follows:

The decision is to leave the date and time alone. The colloquiums will

remain on WED. same time.

Wednesday (leaving it alone) has a vote of 17; Friday change to 3.30 has a vote of 4; Friday change to 4.00 has a vote of 10; write-in has a vote of 1, and that is no preference. Total vote cast: 32.

Lee Pondrom-Corporate relations with Alumni, needs names for awards. Lee will send email asking for suggestions. Early February is the deadline so we can meet our schedule.

Admissions report. Robert Joynt and Mary Anne Clarke. Of the 160-180 current graduate students, 29 are expected to need TA ships in the fall. 54 TA ships are available for next fall. 15 outside TA's were hired this spring. The department has requested 75 offer approvals for next fall, the same number as last year.

Fall 2007 admissions-Approx. 400 applicants, 200 domestic, 100 from China and 100 from the rest of the world. Prof. Joynt commented; Overall quality almost as good as last year, our top year of quality grads.

We sent GAANN emails to top 45 domestic candidates to encourage application to GAANN Fellowships. One AOF and one or two RA's separate from 75 projected admissions are expected.

Sue Coppersmith asked for input from faculty on whether to admit 80 students instead of 75. The consensus of the meeting was to make 80 offers. Mary Anne Clarke is to make a revised request to South Hall.

NRC Survey—This survey is done only once every 10 years, and it has become clear that the information on the departmental web pages will be an important consideration in the assessment. The results of this survey affect our ability to negotiate with the Deans. Rankings matter.

There is a two-step ranking process. The first step is for all faculty to fill out a survey that has already been sent out to all faculty. PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR SURVEY. Only people who have filled out this first survey are eligible to be included in a random sample of faculty who will be selected/invited to the next step of the survey collection process. In the next step those invited to participate will rate other departments.

Because the second step of the ratings will be based on information obtained from the departmental web site, PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RESEARCH WEB PAGES. Research pages, personal pages and information on your individual sites and on the Physics Departmental web site need to be updated prior to March 1, 2007.

Sridhara Dasu said that Steve Rader has volunteered to help Elaine with this project. An ad hoc faculty committee of Sridhara Dasu, Cary Forest, and Sue Coppersmith will

advise Elaine and Steve Rader. Please fill out your survey and start updating your individual web pages right away.

Bernice Durand that she will be retiring at the end of June 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.