

Minutes of the Physics Department Meeting, Friday, 10 November 2006
Called to order by Susan Coppersmith, 12.15 p.m., Chamberlin 5310
Minutes by Lynn Rettig, Chair's Assistant.

1. Announcements:

a. A reminder from L&S Administration re LTE's beginning work: LTE's may NOT begin working until after their appointments have been approved. This is more important now than ever, with the new LTE working restrictions.

b. UW System Applied Research Grant Competition for FY 2007-08: The internal campus deadline is Thursday, 11 January 2007. The request for proposals and other information about the UW-System FY 2007-08 Applied Research Grant Program can be found at this web site: <http://www.uwsa.edu/acss/applres/index.htm> There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted from UW-Madison this year, so no campus internal competition is required. However, a designated UW-Madison campus official must endorse the proposals that are submitted to the UW-System competition. A hard copy of the proposal should be routed with a T-form for appropriate department and college signatures and submitted to the Graduate School, Room 333, by 12:00 p.m., January 11, 2007.

c. A reminder that the format for copying requests has changed. For more information, please see Dave Lockman (Mailroom, 2309 CH) or Lynn Rettig (Main Office, 2320 CH).

2. Building Updates:

a. Keep an eye on your e-mail for complete updates. Work on the elevators is starting now, with new ones coming in March. The freight elevator will be shut down for a week at some point for replacement.

b. Work on Sterling Hall is at least 6 months behind.

c. Call the Physical Plant with problems with the plumbing in the new part of Chamberlin Hall.

d. Work on the duct work system is coming, it has not yet been approved, but there should be no problem, and should greatly improve the heating and cooling process.

3. Discussions:

a. University Committee Listening Session, Prof. William Tracy of Agronomy presiding: Discussion of UWS7 (contract termination for convicted felons within the UW System): Suspension without pay after charge and during the trial period; if not convicted, then outstanding back pay is paid in full. At this time, the University Committee is working to do more than just correct previous mistakes, and "put out fires" (see handout, right column, slide 2). Also working on improving relations with the Legislature, which should be greatly helped by the recent election results. Requests for faculty input to Committee. Discussion on the erosion in Faculty Governance over the last 20 years – check with older Faculty Senate members? Possibility of term limits for Faculty Senate members? Apparently not likely. Report on Scientists – use of titles, etc. Graduate student fee remission: is there a legislative solution? Any budget increases? Talk to your department Senators, they will pass your concerns on to the complete Senate. (Physics Department Senators are: Carlsmith (Pondrom), Huber (Saffman), McCammon (Winokur), Onellion (Hashimoto), Sprott (Shiu) Alternates are in parentheses.)

4. Decision Items:

a. Qualifier Exam Changes (presented by Paul Terry): Questions re who would do the grading of old problems; updating old problems to meet current information levels; students having seen old questions in prep course. The decision was divided into 2 motions: the 1st for changing the current policy in regard to number of times students can take exam before passing; the 2nd for content decisions. Both motions passed. The timing of the Spring 2007 exam was noted, in that it will be held one week earlier than previously.

b. Interdisciplinary (Engineering) Course Proposal (presented by Clint Sprott): The Engineering Department wishes for Physics approval for a class they already offer for credit that needs special permission for a pass/fail grade; to be changed to an official P/F only course. The course is a tutoring seminar for Physics 201 & 202. The Physics Department currently does NOT offer tutoring for these courses, students are referred to the Engineering Department for tutoring for them. The majority of the Committee feels that it is silly to give credit for remedial work, and that this may be the edge of a slippery slope. Rebuttal was made that the slope goes in both directions. Motion was made and seconded for approval without comment. Motion passed with 1 opposed, no abstentions.

c. Emeritus Status for Jim Hanesworth: Passed unanimously.

5. Matters arising: Announcement was made that the Department has been approved for a Faculty Search; Jane Schimmel, new Student Services Coordinator (2320H Chamberlin Hall) was introduced.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.