

Minutes of the Physics Department Meeting, Friday, 1 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 request for two more faculty members to sign off on the beer permit application for the Grad Student Holiday Colloquium on Wednesday, 13 December.

A request for feedback on the new copying procedures (see attached handout) was made. Please send your thoughts to duplicating@physics.wisc.edu.

An e-grading reminder: there will be an e-mail coming your way soon with deadlines, info urls, and other necessities for the process.

3. Building Updates:

a.) Good News: We may be getting more space in Sterling than previously thought (see announcements), maybe "yes" on getting the large lecture halls. We need to put Sterling back on the preferred list for classroom space. Rooms will be painted, but walls will not be torn out unless it is required to bring the space up to code. The Space committee met, and moved to request the entire basement of Sterling. There will be a meeting Tuesday with the architects going over the remodeling procedures, and making sure the plans match.

b.) Other news: There was a problem with the front railing not being up to code, so Kramer's is re-doing it. The windows are finally approaching completion. Work on the 1st floor is ongoing, but will not be happening during finals week (17-23 Dec.). The week between Christmas and New Year's, it will be very noisy on the 1st floor due to jack-hammering. "Bring your ear-plugs to work with you" week. The Rennebohm Auditorium vestibule is finished.

c.) Other matters: Concerns were raised in regard to noise between the offices, especially in the new portion of the building. Steps are being taken to mitigate the noise transference. The moving walls in Baha's section are the wrong size. There are cell phone service problems with the new windows in the old portion of the building. The wireless survey is scheduled for December 7th, George Ott is coordinating with Kevin Peterson from DoIT.

4. Discussions:

a. Certificate in Physics: Clint Sprott deputizing for Duncan Carlsmith. The Certificate requires very little work on the part of the department. Discussion was entered into the possibility of offering a Certificate in Physics (see handout). It was proposed to revise the course requirements: eliminate parts b & c, add Physics 249 to part a, and part d becomes: "additional physics courses....". A hand vote was heavily in favor of the proposal. The motion was tabled and sent back to the Intro Course committee to consider these proposed revisions.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.