



The meeting was called to order by Bob Joynt, Department Chair at 12:15 PM with 22 voting members present.

Action Items Approved

- Faculty Senator vote—Westerhoff approved for a 3-year term.
- B651 Sterling for Garage Physics—General consensus of faculty.
- Course Proposal ME759—No overlap, department approval.
- White Boards: Joynt will write a letter on behalf of the Department.

1. Announcements

- Congratulations to Baha Balantekin. He has been elected as the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the European Centre for Theoretical Nuclear Physics and Related Areas (ECT*) at Trento, Italy.
- Congratulations to Daniel Den Hartog. He has been elected as a fellow to the American Physical Society.

2. Presidential Visit

- President Barack Obama's campaign rally will be held on Bascom on Thursday, October 4. It has affected three Physics exams that are scheduled for the evening of October 4. The department has had to reschedule exam rooms in anticipation of the crowds and security. Chamberlin will not be closed, but several buildings surrounding Chamberlin will have limited access. Several buildings on Bascom will be closed for the day.

3. Faculty Senate

- Westerhoff has been nominated to serve on the faculty senate for the Department for a three-year term. (Vote: 1st Joynt; 2nd Smith; Approved by unanimous voice vote)

4. Garage Physics

- The space committee has discussed assigning B651 Sterling for an unstructured open lab space for students (Garage Physics). The space is not prime lab space for faculty lab space. Students would need to pass a safety test (online) to obtain a key to use the room. It would be run similar to the student shop and require a buddy system. The lab would have space for experiments and low-voltage only electrical equipment. The space committee has requested a two-year review. Questions or comments, contact Carlsmith. (No Formal Vote: General consensus by voice)

5. Board of Visitors

- The first meeting was successful. The board has expressed interest in helping to department in several ways: advocating for the department, tech transfer, jobs for undergraduates, fundraising, fundraising campaign. The next meeting will be scheduled on May 2-3, 2013.

6. Enrollment

- Undergraduate enrollment numbers are increasing.

7. Hiring Update

- There is an open PVL for an assistant faculty position in Plasma Theory. The PVL will close on November 29.
- There is an open PVL for a shared advisor (academic advisor and career development coordinator) for the Departments of Physics, Geo Science, Astronomy, and Oceanic and Atmospheric Science. The PVL will close on October 15.

8. Self Assessment

- The department is in the process of doing a self assessment specifically looking at the academic program (undergraduate and graduate). An ad hoc committee has been formed and the committee will be looking for input from the department. The College (L&S) is using a new approach for assessments that are completed every ten years. Physics is the first science department that will complete the self assessment with the new guidelines. It is due in January 2013.

9. Course Proposal

- Mechanical Engineering 759: The department has been asked to approve the course proposal. There is no overlap with the proposed course and any physics courses. The introductory & Advanced Course Committee (McDermott, Chair) suggested that the department approve the course. (Vote: 1st Joynt; 2nd Hashimoto; Approved by unanimous voice vote)

10. Education Innovation

- For more than 160 years, the University has pushed the boundaries of what is known, and the limits of what is possible. This year the campus will celebrate the Year of Innovation during the 2012-13 academic year. The Year of Innovation focuses on three distinct themes. The first reinvigorates the University's longstanding commitment to innovation in how we teach, how we research, and how we operate. The second explores campus and community interactions and examples of innovation through social entrepreneurship, engaged scholarship and service learning. The final theme examines the real-world impact of UW-Madison innovations in the area of technology transfer and knowledge transfer.

11. Matters Arising

- Campus Computing and future challenges in research data management. For more information contact Bruce Maas (DoIT).
- Status of the white boards in Chamberlin Hall. A message will be sent to faculty. Joynt will write a letter. Complaints can be addressed to: Kim Todd (ktodd@fpm.wisc.edu).