

ESA Department Meeting Oct. 5 2015 4:30 pm

Present: Becca Walker, Tania Anders, Mark Boryta, Julie Bray-Ali, Mike Hood, Micol Christopher, Heather Jones, Craig Webb, David Mrofka, Hilary Lackey

1. Minutes from September meeting were approved pending correction of the planetarium notes (Sept 2014 notes were accidentally cut and pasted in)
2. Curriculum Update – Field courses (submitted to the division office on 9/15/15, no further action yet)
3. Geology Equivalency was denied because the C&I committee rejected the phrasing copied from the senate A.P. regarding candidates who have no M.S. but have made significant progress towards a Ph.D. The Department is appalled that C&I flouted the legal directive of the A.P. Verbatim from Craig Webb: “What idiots are on this committee?”
4. Senate report (Becca): The only relevant topic is that Ed Design needs someone from Natural Science for meetings Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m.
5. Association report - no report this month yet (Mike)
6. Planetarium & observatory update – see below (Heather)
7. Observatory Report:

Telescope Nights- Next telescope night is Friday November 6, 2015. Please let your students know about it and the opportunity to volunteer as a telescope operator. No experience necessary!

Camera Issues-

The 16” CCD Camera is having intermittent issues again. We suspect it may be a connection problem and have asked someone from the networking department to come and test all our connections.

ADA – We would like to purchase a “Revolution Imager” for handicapped students to use. This is a specially designed camera to be used in conjunction with telescopes. It stacks several images from the telescope and displays the “video” to an attached 7” LCD monitor. Cost \$300.00 + Tax + Shipping.

Batteries- The rechargeable C batteries we are currently using for remote observing do not hold their charge very well and it is difficult to charge up so many batteries (8 per scope) at a time. We can instead purchase a Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery Pack for Meade Telescopes that will hold their charge for hours and plug right into the power supply slot (no messing around with battery holders that won’t close!). These battery packs will also be easier to charge, because you only need to charge one instead of 8 batteries at a time. And no charging station is required. Each battery pack costs \$47.49.

Planetarium Report:

Flyers - Fall 2016 flyers now available! This flyer lists all of our shows and telescope nights for the rest of the semester. If you would like to hand out flyers I can arrange to have some put in your mail box. Just let me know how many you would like.

Von Karman Lecture

Von Karman Lecture – Thursday October 8, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Topic: **Unveiling an Alien World: Dawn at Ceres.** We need a Pre-Lecture Speaker

Construction - The grass east of Bldg 26 (adjacent to the planetarium), where we usually launch rockets, will be blocked off for construction in January and will not be accessible for six months. We’ve made arrangements to launch rockets for school groups from Sherman Park during this construction phase and then be back at the 26 East Grass by late summer 2016. We will **NOT** offer the rockets activity for birthday party groups during this construction phase.

Reach for the Stars – Reach for the Stars applications have been posted on the planetarium's website. The deadline for applications is October 30, 2015. Faculty are needed to help with reviewing the top applicants in early November. The tentative date is Monday 11/16 at 4:00 pm.

8. Division meeting report - no report yet (Mark)
9. Adjunct classroom evaluations. Julie attached a table of which cycle year the adjunct faculty are in. Mike pointed out changes to the contract. Rehire rights is now on a three year cycle, not four.

Note: The Department discussed the problem of getting incorrect information about contractual obligations from the Division office. Every semester we spend hours going through the cycle table given to us by NSD, and end up making corrections by reading the contract ourselves. For instance, it is not clear where Neves, Phelps and Mendenhall fall in terms of rehire. Also, we are not sure that Grubb, Hughes, Johnpeer and Roberts need an H4. Instead of letting us muddle through, we request a clarified correct list of which forms are needed for whom and the new contract rules.

10. SLOs/GEOs. We need to complete the Outcomes document. Julie requests a complete list of SLOs and data use from us, as requested the first week of Fall semester.
11. December meeting will be Mon. Dec. 7.
12. Walnut Family Festival is this Saturday 10/10/15. If faculty and staff are planning to come anyway and would like to volunteer to help with the Planetarium Booth, that would be great.
13. JPL open house is this coming weekend.

Meeting adjourned 5:35 p.m.