

## **ESA September 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

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

Guest: Charlie Newman (Chemistry)

1. Minutes from August approved.
2. Charlie Newman filled us in on linking Teacher Preparation students with STEM fields through better access, Tutoring, S.I., research (99) courses. Further discussion about encouraging student research included an idea from Becca and Charlie for a team-taught research methods class that would give LHE units to faculty and provide students with research experience. Also, we discussed the need for Natural Sciences Division faculty to unite and aggressively lobby for the FA to support faculty engaging in student research.
3. Equipment requests (Mark):
  - Department will request a new field vehicle: needs high clearance and 4WD; accommodates 8 (or at least 6) passengers; plenty of cargo room (rooftop, rear space or trailer). A van is preferable to a pickup to carry cargo in case of rain. Also desirable: floodlights, winch
  - Stream table is a possibility; please get price estimates.
  - Microscope with camera
  - Weather station
  - Planetarium equipment:
    - Motor Drive for dome automation (1<sup>st</sup> need to hire engineer to solve vibration issue)
    - H-alpha solar filter
    - Larger filter wheel with narrow band filters
4. Senate report (Becca)
  - Fall curriculum training is September 16th from 1:30-3:00 in 6-122.
5. Association report (Mike)
  - no meeting yet
6. Planetarium / observatory update (Heather)
  - Public Telescope Night: I would like to move Public telescope night to the first Friday of the month starting in January 2015. We've been hosting it on the second Friday of the month so we do not have staffing issues running our public planetarium shows and public telescope night on the same night. However when holidays have interfered with the schedule and they ended up on the same night anyway we have an increase in attendance to both events. I would like to keep them together but staffing issues will still be a problem. If Jessica or I get sick and cannot work that night we will need a

full time staff member to supervise the telescope observatory. Would anyone on the faculty be willing to serve as a "backup" in case this ever happens?

- October solar (10/23) and lunar eclipse (10/8) events. Department agreed we should offer planetarium show and observing. Set up the telescopes close to 60-61 so that we can coordinate with science exploration center.

7. Curriculum update: lab parity approved for courses by adding the statement about faculty involvement during lab meetings.

8. Mark K. hours and tasks were discussed.

9. There is a Von Karman lecture this Thursday

10. Adjuncts need exterior building and office supply storeroom keys for evening classes (doors are locking at 10:00 p.m., when some office hours go until 10:30). Also, we request that the windowless adjunct office lights could come on at 6 a.m. instead of 7 a.m.

11. The all-important Snack Schedule:

Oct. Mark

Nov.: Mike H.

March: Heather Jones

April: Becca

May: Craig

End-of-year party: Dave Mrofka