

ESA Dept. Meeting September 14, 2015 4:30 p.m.

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

1. Minutes from August - approved
2. Equipment request. The stream table is on the list in PIE but has not been approved. The models that we researched are \$5000 and \$12000. Dave is working on getting a better quote from the vendor.
3. Senate report (Becca): No action items to report from the first two meetings.
4. Association report (Mike):
  - a. Negotiations survey for next year: Send questions to be negotiated to [kaljumagi@msac-fa.org](mailto:kaljumagi@msac-fa.org) by September 30.

Craig commented that it would be good to have a way to comment anonymously. We discussed putting faculty compensation for the 99 research courses on the survey.
  - b. New task force: Faculty Role in Sexual Violence Reporting/Prevention
  - c. Department approves adding a new dental insurance option
  - d. Scholarship fundraiser: BJ's on Monday, Sept. 21. 15% of food and soft drink sales go to FA scholarship fund if you bring a flyer
5. Planetarium / observatory update (Heather)
6. Curriculum updates to Geol24,25 & 29 have been approved. The only change is switching to a newer textbook
7. Julie sent the Winter & Spring schedule out by email. Please check and verify. We are adding an evening section of Geol 10 (instructor: S. Mata)
8. Mark K hours and tasks. We discussed what his role should be in organizing and maintaining the field equipment so that it will be ready for our trips. This maintenance should be an ongoing task.
9. Exploration center and Resource room schedule / protocols are posted on a Google doc for us to review. Addition to Resource Room task: have the morning person tally the number of people.

Becca brought up the issue that sometimes the 2 food-drink tables are full. We decided to change the policy to state that closed drinks are okay at any table. Hilary made the update in the google doc.
10. Classroom observations and Evaluations – our newest part time faculty is Sara (astronomy).
11. Von Karman lectures dates (Mark): Oct. 9, Nov. 6

12. Redinger research grant topic: The department thinks that oceanographic, sedimentary transport or stream flow monitoring related to ElNino would be good.

13. Kepler Scholarship Event: Linda Spilker will be presenting.

13. Earth science storage room (Tania): Can we have Mark K. organize the cabinets in 60-1514 and leave empty glass cabinets so that each faculty member has a space to stash materials needed for class?

14. Robert Nelson has bestowed a gift to the department. He donated photomicrograph components to be used with our optical scopes.

15. Planetarium report attached, next page.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:05*

## **Planetarium/Observatory September Report**

### **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 handicap 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.



M13 as seen in the 7" LCD monitor



Revolution Imager

**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 + Tax + Shipping.

### **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 Karmon Lecture**

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

*Topic: **Von Karmon October Lecture: Unveiling an Alien World: Dawn at Ceres** - Pre-Lecture Speaker?*

### **Construction**

*The 26 East Grass 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 are **NOT** planning on offering 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. Can anyone help with reviewing the top applicants in early November?*