

Earth Science and Astronomy Department Meeting – Monday March 9, 2015

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

1. Minutes from December approved.

2. Astronomy 8 curriculum updates approved with minor revisions.

3. Adjunct evaluations: (Mark) : *Need evaluations for new faculty*: Kevin Nguyen (Hilary); Sadie Kingsbury (T-Th 1:15 Micol; Dave – Wed 3:00 Lab); *Returning*: B. Grubb (Wed eve, Sat), R. Hughes (Hilary Thurs afternoon), G. Johnpeer (T-Th 8am; 9:45 Dave), C. Roberts (Wed and Thur 6:30); Larry Mendenhall (Craig). Micol will send out a spreadsheet for us.

4. Senate report (Becca):

Reviews for the following courses are due by May 31, 2015:

ASTR8; GEOL24; GEOL25

A complete SLO assessment cycle has to be done by May 1, **2016** for the following courses, or the course may be inactivated: GEOL1; GEOL29; GEOL7

Rationale must be submitted to the Ed Design committee for the following standalone courses: GEOL2; GEOL29; GEOL99 The Chancellor's Office will now be doing these reviews.

Geol 29 will be part of the environmental studies certificate as of Jan 2016. We should coordinate with the other sciences on wording for the Geo 99.

Up to \$1500 for Conference and Travel funding is available until the money runs out. See the POD website

5. Planetarium / observatory update (Heather):

100 people showed up for observing on Friday 3/9;

Von Karman Lecture – Thursday March 26, 2015 @ 6:30 PM – We need a Mt. SAC Speaker: *Adventures From the Field - (Down and Dirty) Stories of Pursuing JPL Science from the Ground up to Space*

JPL regularly sends research teams to the most important planet in the Solar System - our Earth. Join Remote Sensing Calibration Specialist Mark Helmlinger (a.k.a. Hellwinger) as he shares pictures and stories about the research efforts he has been a part of.

Digistar Upgrade-

We have enough saved up to upgrade our Digistar system to Digistar 5. The instruction office said last year they would pitch in and help cover some of the cost of this upgrade but it's taking longer than expected for this funding to be finalized. If the funds are approved soon, the planetarium will need to close down for three weeks in July/August. If the funding continues to be delayed it may post pone the upgrade for another year as July/August are the months when the planetarium is use the least.

Show Shopping- If the instruction office helps cover the cost of the Digistar upgrade, we will have enough savings left over to purchase some new shows. If there is a

specific planetarium show, or a topic you would like a show about for your classes please let me know before March 31, 2015.

Constellation labs- Would you still like constellation labs offered? What days/times work best for your classes (Jessica's days off are Monday). Faculty said that Thursday afternoons are good. Maybe some non-telescope Fridays could work.

Other- Lunar Eclipse early Saturday April 4, 2015 – free planetarium shows will be offered on April Friday, 2015

Morning field trip time slots are currently sold out until June

Birthday party time slots are currently sold out until May.

6. Division meeting report (Mark):

- Request is made that we generate at least one great complete cycle of SLOs. These can be simpler than we thought. It is useful if they are centered around equipment purchases. Karelyn Hoover can assist us.
- Division requests that we set Department Goals.
- March 12-13 will be a high school outreach event – more information needed
- The Ed Design Committee wants someone from Natural Sciences to serve (1:30-3 on Tuesdays)

7. SLOs/GEOs: Good idea to start designing a new cycle of SLOs

8. Mark Koestel / resource room: The list of every semester duties will be re-sent by Hilary to everyone and please add what you need for your classes and labs.

The Department would like a copy of MK's official job description.

MK will be trained to make purchases

9. Purchasing deadline is this month. Get your orders (under \$500) in by mid March. The new laptop cart replacements will be in next week.

10. Schedule (summer & fall). Some adjuncts are teaching in the summer. Julie is working on the fall schedule.

11. Astronomy scholarship dinner will be April 11, 2015

12. Constellation lab time (Heather)

13. Chair election nomination opens. Send them to Craig.

14. The globe in the Science Exploration Center was reported as not working properly. Electricians were in the building. We would like to know if there is an issue with workers bumping into the globe.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm