

Earth Science & Astronomy department: April meeting minutes 4/7/15

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

1. March meeting minutes approved.

2. Chairs meeting report: Mark:

... Curriculum style sheets are available (from Ed Design – need confirmatin?) and it is recommended that we use those when doing your updates.

.... Chemistry held a Curriculum retreat. They said it was effective and recommend that others try it. Our Dept. agrees that we should do it in the fall 2015. Hilary will send out a doodle poll for availability.

.... Histotechnology will be offering a Bachelors program.

... Program level outcomes for Natural Sciences program are to be discussed soon.

3. Evaluation update: we set who is visiting which classes. Julie is filling in the names and Mike will clean up the file.

4. FA report – Mike:

... Elections end tomorrow. Hospitality Committee and Scholarship Committee openings.

... There is a pilot program for online student evaluations. Tenure-track faculty in 2nd and 3rd year will be the testers.

... The summer session of 2017 will start on Thurs. the week after finals.

6. Academic senate report – Becca: nothing to report

7. Planetarium & Observatory –Heather:

... Our telescope nights have been going well due to increased volunteers. – please help us keep up the number of volunteers. Tell students that things slow down around 9:30 and there is less of a line to get to the roof after that.

... The CCD camera is being sent in for repairs.

... The newDigistar is like a Google Earth flyover with overlays. It can do binary star systems.

... We have a budget for planetarium shows so please give Heather ideas for topics.

8. Mark K projects: Hilary handed out the instructions given to MK in the fall. Some items were not completed. We discussed reporting to the Dean on this.

9. ESA chair election – please send your nominations to Craig Webb.

10. PIE & equipment request – we need to order supplies and get it tied to PIE prior to

the next Department meeting.

- We have \$8300 to spend in the next 2 weeks. Dave put up a list of equipment that has been budgeted. There are about \$40 left.

11. Kepler Scholarship event is this Saturday! Invite your students to the lecture part: 7:30 pm (there will be a row of seats)

12. Redinger endowment. As a requirement of the Redinger Family Research Endowment Grant it will be necessary for the department to develop an appropriate theme for the year's student research. The department will determine a theme at their first meeting of the new school year and students will be informed prior to the end of November of that year about the project and application procedures. Applications from the students will be due in February and a selection committee will determine the year's winner.

13. Hilary plans to offer Honors Ocean 10 in Spring 2016 so that we can keep it on the books.