

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

present: Becca Walker, Craig Webb, Dave Mrofka, Heather Jones, Micol Christopher, Mark Boryta, Hilary Lackey, Julie Bray-Ali

1. Minutes from the November meeting approved.
  2. *Summer and fall schedule: Please email Julie your preferences.*
  3. Adjunct evaluations: you should have completed classroom visit and student evaluation reports, and given a SIGNED copy of Class Evaluation to Mark. Please SEND AN ELECTRONIC COPY to Mark as well please!
- We have many classroom visits and student evaluations to conduct during spring 15 (due to the fact the faculty contract was not available before the drop deadline, we were able to complete only few evaluations in Fall '14)
4. No Chairs meeting report: the chairs meeting was postponed to 12/11/14: Mark will communicate the critical items with you via email.
  5. Senate report (Becca): Several committee openings; POD has conference and travel funds up to \$1500 per person until all of the money is gone at the end of June.
  6. Faculty Association report (Mike) : The District and FA are looking into switching to interest-based-bargaining, where the contract negotiation would be done more collaboratively as opposed to each side making more strict proposals back and forth. If you're interested in learning more about it or getting involved with the decision on whether or not we should go this route, let Mike know.

The district doesn't like the 2016-17 calendar we approved, and wants to change to start winter (and therefore Spring and Summer) classes a week earlier. This would mean starting Winter session on January 2 (a school holiday), Spring term on Feb. 20 (also a holiday, President's day) and Summer on June 12. So, Winter and Spring terms would each have two Monday holidays, plus almost no time after New Years to get ready. FA voted to have all of these a week later. FA is fighting this, and is likely willing to fight fairly vigorously to avoid changing the calendar in this way. So, we may not actually have that year's calendar finalized for a while.

Elections will be held in the Spring, with nominations starting March 10. Open positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, 3 full-time directors, 1 Adjunct Director, and 6 Adjunct Faculty At Large Representatives.

7. Planetarium and Observing update (Heather J – attached)
8. SLOs/GEOs : We are not assessing SLOs and GEOs currently (with exception of few courses). We should plan to evaluate the results from past assessments perhaps in Spring 15.
9. No curriculum updates.
10. Next meetings: Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (?), 3/9, 4/6, 5/11, 6/8. Graduation on 6/12/15
11. NSF STEM grant for Iraj Nejad and Charlie Newman; they are looking to involve faculty who teach teachers.

## **Planetarium**

- Von Karman Lectures: We will continue to stream the Von Karman lectures in the planetarium over the intersession. We need presenters for the pre-lecture in January and February. The topics are:
  - January 16, 2015 – The Mars Exploration Rovers: A Decade of Exploration
  - February 13, 2015 – The History and Future of Space Communications – Celebrating 50 years of NASA Deep Space Network
- Our new winter flyer will be out soon, the schedule is posted on the website.
- Thank you for everyone who helped select the Reach for the Stars Finalists! We will be able to serve 11 school groups this year. These field trips will be scheduled on Wednesday mornings not reserved by faculty for class use. Please let me know when you would like to use the planetarium during the Winter/Spring semester by December 15, 2015.
- We are looking into purchase some new shows and show clips, if there is a planetarium show you would like for your class please let me know by the end of the year.
- We are currently involved in 4 collaborative projects with other departments on campus
  - Project 1: Planetarium show written by PTK Honors Club: Our Cosmic Address
  - Project 2: A planetarium show about Italian domes with collaborative efforts from students in the art club, Italian club, broadcasting, music and film. This project capitalizes on the fact that projected images of Italian domes in a dome theater make it feel like you're there better than a square image can.
  - Project 3: Calculating the distance between the earth and the sun by simulating historical transits of Venus for Ben Jose from the physics department.
  - Project 4: Working with the architecture department to project 3D models of buildings in the immersive environment of the dome for future student projects.

## **Observatory**

- Public Telescope Observing nights will be moved to the first Friday of the month whenever possible to coincide with our constellation planetarium show.
- The Observatory will continue to be used throughout the intersession as we continue to work on refining the observatories capabilities. Mainly getting the tracking camera to work despite building vibrations.
- We will be using the winter break to fix any of our broken telescopes. If you have had any issues with the telescopes over the last semester please let me know ASAP.