

Regent's Physics and Astronomy Academic Advisory Committee

Minutes of the April 30, 2010 meeting

The meeting was convened at 10 AM with a quorum. Members present were Mark Edwards, chair (Georgia Southern University), Chris Wozny, (Waycross College), Mark Pergrem, chair-elect (Georgia Highlands College), Malav Shah (Macon State College), Imad El-Jeaid (Middle Georgia College), K.C. Chan (Albany State University), Dick Prior (North Georgia College State University), Charles Johnson (South Georgia College), Leon Jaynes (Armstrong Atlantic State University), Emma Cooley (Dalton State College), Taha Mzoughi (Kennesaw State College), Kim Shaw (Columbus State University), Ntungwa Maasha (Coastal Georgia Community College), Martin Okafor (Georgia Perimeter College), Bill Dennis (University of Georgia), Michael Pangia (Georgia College & State University), Shawn Seat (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), Brian Thoms (Georgia State University), Judy Awong-Taylor (BOR)

- 1) An update from Judy Awong-Taylor led to two separate discussions about online physics courses and lab fees. A polling of the institutions represented showed that the approach to online physics courses ranges from hybrid online to fully online courses with students meeting only for labs and tests. Lab fees vary from institution to institution but range from \$15 to \$35.
- 2) The necessary credentials and qualifications for teaching introductory astronomy courses were discussed. A motion was put forward that the committee recommend that the qualifications for teaching a physics course are also acceptable for teaching an introductory astronomy course. This motion passed unanimously.
- 3) A preparatory course for PHYS 2211 was discussed. Difficulties with crediting the course, especially for two year institutions, were cited. Also how such a course might affect the prerequisites for PHYS 2211 was discussed.
- 4) Crediting the physics sequence for other courses was discussed, especially as regards students that change majors. For example, PHYS 2211/2212 can count for PHYS 1111/1112 but not for a physical science sequence.
- 5) The differences between a BS in physics and a BA with a major in physics were discussed and how these differences impact students seeking a double major.
- 6) The lengthening of the lecture period from 50 minutes to 55 minutes with a corresponding decrease in the number of lecture periods and the resulting impact on course content was discussed.
- 7) Previously developed physics learning outcomes were discussed. In a follow-up email Judy Awong-Taylor later confirmed that the learning outcomes had been approved and would be posted on the BOR website.
- 8) The last item was election of officers. Brian Thoms of Georgia State was selected as Chair-Elect. The new additions to the Executive Committee were determined to be Bill Dennis (UGA) representing Research 1 institutions, Leon Jaynes (Armstrong Atlantic) representing four-year institutions, and Charles Johnson (South Georgia) representing two-year institutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pergrem (Chair-elect)
Georgia Highlands College