

POST-APR ACTION PLAN

September 28, 2016

Attending: Tony Moreira, Bill LaCourse, Mike Hayden, Pat McDermott, Simon Stacey, Karen Fedderly

Physics				
	ACTION			
RECOMMENDATION	DEPT	CNMS	PROVOST	PLAN
<p>1. The addition of five TA lines, with the multiplicative effect of additional externally funded funded RA's, would address several areas of the university's strategic plan.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Dept: This recommendation has been repeated by external reviewers for the past three reviews. The Department requests 6 additional TA lines in the next budget process. We justify this request by noting, for example, the introductory labs and recitations for Fall 2016 require 22 TAs. The department budget for TAs is only enough money to support 16.5 TAs.</p> <p>Dean: Requests for supplemental TAs (beyond pressure enrollment needs) will be made by the dean through the annual budgeting process. as noted in the external reviewer's report, the department maintains a high RA:TA ratio, and additional TA lines are needed to facilitate the efforts of the department's highly productive researchers.</p> <p>Provost: The Provost considers all requests for funds from the hiring pool as prioritized by the deans and makes decisions based on availability of funds and alignment with the campus strategic plan goals.</p>
<p>2. The new faculty need more space and now is the perfect time to allocate available space in the physics building.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Dept: The Department has made a request for three offices in the vacated CAHSS space. We are waiting to hear the decision.</p> <p>Dean: The space needs of a department are always a priority for the college. Requests for additional space are made via submission to the university's Space Management Committee for consideration and recommendation. The Dean supported the department's request for additional space via this process.</p> <p>Provost: The Provost, in consultation with the Vice President for Administration and Finance, upon receiving a recommendation from the Space Management Committee makes final decisions on space allocation.</p>

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<p>3. The Atmospheric Physics program would be enhanced with the addition of at least one more faculty member.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Dept: The department thanks the reviewers for their analysis and will fold this suggestion into its regular strategic planning process.</p> <p>Dean: The Dean supports the strategic hiring and replacement of faculty members in accord with the recommendation of the department chair and its faculty.</p> <p>Provost: The Provost considers all faculty hiring requests from the hiring pool as prioritized by the deans and makes decisions based on availability of funds and alignment with the campus strategic plan goals.</p>
<p>4. The department needs to consider a change to its upper-division undergraduate curriculum to allow more advanced study (that is, follow-on semesters in E&M and quantum mechanics) and to move quantum mechanics to the first semester of the senior year to facilitate better preparation for the GRE.</p>	✓	✓		<p>Dept: The department's assessment program has also identified this issue. The basic suggestion to offer two upper level E&M courses and two quantum mechanics courses is not the standard across the physics departments in this country. Many departments do this, but many do not. We are evaluating the best route for us, given the State limit of 120 credits per degree and limited faculty. Adding two more courses would mean deleting two other courses. These could come from the elective pool, but then the students would not have a broad exposure to topics not found in the required sequence. Currently, we feel that adequate follow-on advanced study opportunities in these two areas are well served by our introductory graduate level courses in these areas. Undergraduates can and do take these courses as needed and desired to augment their studies.</p> <p>Dean: The academic curriculum is under the purview of the department and its faculty.</p>
<p>5. Evaluation of Assessments</p>	✓			<p>Dept: The department will evaluate the assessment program and report on implementation and results in the Year Three Review</p>