Department of Physical Science Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2025

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Faculty | Present | Absent | Excused |
| Luminita Coman | X |  |  |
| Yadab Paudel | X |  |  |
| Marius Coman | X |  |  |
| Kimberly Hilton |  |  | X |
| Soumya Bhattacharya | X |  |  |
| Serhiy Pasishnyk | X |  |  |
| Valentin Zalessov | X |  |  |
| Eric Commendatore | X |  |  |
| Di Xue | X |  |  |
| Courtney Sparrow | X |  |  |
| Gabriel Gaidos | X |  |  |
| Michael Sauer | X |  |  |
| Qin Liu | X |  |  |

**Quick recap:**

The team discussed the integration of a science course, the possibility of reorganizing a course to align with other universities' offerings, and the course numbering system for physical sciences. They also discussed the challenges of offering a course that may not transfer to other institutions and the need for basic science education. Lastly, they touched on the topic of textbook adoption and the upcoming 5-year contract renewals.

**Summary**

**Physics Textbook Review and Course Integration**

Marius and Yadab discussed a physics textbook sent by Frank, with Marius agreeing to review it.

**Course Reorganization and General Education**

We discussed the possibility of reorganizing a course to include chapters from previous courses and aligning it with other universities' offerings. They considered the potential overlap with existing courses and the need for a new course to be designed from scratch. The team also discussed the importance of having introductory physics and chemistry courses for students who may not have a strong background in these subjects. The idea of having a general education course was also brought up. However, there was some uncertainty about whether other universities offer similar courses and the requirements for instructors to teach such a course.

**Physical Sciences Course Numbering Discussion**

We discussed the course numbering system for physical sciences, specifically the course PSC 001. Michael explained that the course number must remain as 001, with no modifications, and that the course is currently only taught at one institution, LSSC. Luminita suggested that the course could still be offered but might not be attractive to students looking to transfer to other universities. Michael also shared a link to the Florida Department of Education website where course information can be found. The team agreed to further research the course and its implications.

**Advocating for Introductory Science Course**

In the meeting, Michael explains that a physical science course he previously developed was shut down because it was not being taught at 10 or more institutions in Florida, as per state requirements. Serhiy finds that while the course is offered at some institutions, it is typically not part of general education requirements. Luminita suggests writing a petition to the governor to advocate for allowing the course to be taught, arguing that introductory science concepts are useful for non-science majors. The group discusses the challenges of offering a course that may not transfer to other institutions, but also acknowledges the value of basic science education.

**Deal Timing and Contract Renewals**

We also discussed the upcoming 5-year contract renewals, with Di, Yadab, and Gabriel confirming their need to prepare documents for review. The team also touched on the topic of textbook adoption, with Qin emphasizing the need to update before February.

**Next steps**

• Marius to review the conceptual physics textbook sent by Frank for potential use in the 1020 physics class.

• Luminita to conduct further research on physical science courses offered at other universities and colleges.

• Professors in their 5th year of continuing contract (including Yadab, Di, and Gabriel) to prepare and upload documents for review by Libby.

• All professors to consider and update textbook adoptions before February for the fall semester.