Department of Physical Science Meeting Minutes

February 14, 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 |  |  |

**Summary**

**Celebrating Quantum Mechanics and Education**

In the meeting, Qin and Yadab discussed the celebration of the 100th year of quantum mechanics and the significance of the year in physics. Yadab mentioned that quantum mechanics is the most complex thing. They also discussed a periodic table, which Serhiy explained was a modified version from Ukraine, designed to be more educational. The table superimposes groups A and B in different colors, making it easier for students to understand the relationships between elements. Serhiy mentioned that this table is used in Ukrainian universities and has been downloaded by many students for use.

**AST2000 master shell update**

Luminita confirms she will work on the master Shell update for AST2000 and that she is certified for DEV101. Qin acknowledges this certification as a requirement.

**New Online Tutoring Service on Canvas BrainFuse**

We discussed the new online tutoring service called BrainFuse. Serhiy expressed concerns about the quality of tutoring due to low tutor salaries and some students experiencing issues with the service. Soumya added that students can request more hours by emailing Roz. Yadab shared his observation that on-campus students often don't receive help from tutors.

**Qin's Updates and Upcoming Events**

In the meeting, Qin discussed various topics including the need for forms submission by February 14th for continuous contracts and textbook adoption form due on February 28th. He also mentioned the emergency remote readiness training and an upcoming HLC visit on February 28th, which faculty can join from 9 to 10.

**Online Learning Platforms and Resources**

The team discussed various online learning platforms and resources. Serhiy introduced 'Learn About', a structured learning platform that collects information from various sources and organizes it in different ways. Soumya shared positive feedback from students who used 'Activ', despite the school discontinuing its renewal. Luminita asked about the connection between the Higher Learning Commission and the Department of Education, and also inquired about 'Jove', a platform providing science and physics videos. Yadab expressed concern about overloading students with too many resources. The team agreed that while these platforms can be beneficial, they should not replace existing materials and should not be used to increase costs.

**Exploring Online Chemistry and Physics Labs**

The team discussed various online resources for chemistry and physics labs, with a focus on their suitability for use in educational settings. They found Labster to be the most comprehensive and visually appealing, but noted that it was not free. They also explored Chem Collective and GeoGebra, finding them to be less sophisticated but still useful. The team also discussed the limitations of these resources, particularly in terms of their coverage of organic chemistry. They concluded that while there are some free resources available, they often come with limitations or require additional software installations. The team agreed to continue exploring these resources and to share their findings with the group.