

Astronomy and Astrophysics Faculty Meeting  
Monday, Oct 2, 2006  
3:30-5 pm Rm 102 ISB

AGENDA

- Announcements and reminders (3:30-3:40):
  - Please submit your Second Year Research project descriptions to the Department Office if you have not already done so!
  - Astronomy Research Social: October 10 at 3:30-5 PM, ISB 102. Please attend, bring grads and postdocs, and bring an interesting poster or advertisement for your research. Astrophysics undergrads (including Regents Scholars) will be looking for research ideas. The new Astronomy grads have also been told this is a good forum to find out more about faculty research projects.
  - Records show that we have graduated only 15 PhDs in the last five years. This is a very poor performance. A list will be handed out of all students who are entering their fifth or higher year this fall, together with whether they have passed their Qualifying exam. I fear that next year's Visiting Committee will criticize us for this. We need plans and schedules for these students to graduate ASAP. (handouts)
  - Sample copy of TA expectation form. It is suggested that you fill this out with each of your TAs at the beginning of the quarter. It is required by the union rules as a benchmark to document any later unsatisfactory performance. (handout)
  - Ay 70, a new course for incoming Freshmen in seminar format, is being taught by Doug Lin and Bill Mathews. The goal is to expose the elite incoming freshman to actual astronomy research, data, and equipment with the aim of improving the quality of our undergrad majors. Thanks to those of you who have signed up to give special presentations.
  - First-year and second-year grad students have been advised to apply for NSF Fellowships. If you are approached to supervise a research project, please help the applicant in devising a winning project. The deadline is Nov. 12.
  
- Report on Search process and Fall colloquia (3:40-4:00): (Lin, Laughlin)
  - Status of search, proposed timetable, individuals who have been

- invited for Fall colloquia.
- Two hosts for each visitor have been appointed; please see email from Doug Lin.
  
  - Departmental self-study in preparation for outside Visiting Committee in 2007-8 (4:00-4:15):
    - Review of process
    - Content of Self-study
    - Major conclusions and recommendations from previous reports
    - Timetable for this year's activities
  
  - Departmental priorities for 2006-7 (4:15-4:35): (Faber)
    - Please come with your thoughts and suggestions. Here are some sample topics:
      - This year's Self-Study (a given)
      - Successful hiring process this year (a given)
      - Finalizing graduate requirements for 2007-8 (required by UCSC)
      - Shortening the time to PhD degree (see above item under Announcements and Reminders)
      - Fund-raising and development
      - Improving the TA experience (our students report very little guidance from faculty)
      - Possible deadline for submitting PhD theses (X days before the end of the quarter they are due)
  
  - Greg Laughlin promotion to Full Professor (4:35-5:00)
    - Choice of outside letter writers.