

Astronomy and Astrophysics Faculty Meeting  
Monday, Mar 5, 2007  
3:30-5 pm Rm 102 ISB

## AGENDA

- Announcements (Faber) (3:30-3:45)
- Upcoming events:
  - Visits by prospective grad students: Mar 15 and 16. Please sign up for interviews. Consider devising illustrative and/or interesting hands-on activities that prospectives can do or see. Dinner at the Mathews's, Mar 16.
  - Astronomy Retreat, Apr 7 at CfAO
  - Spring Astronomy Research Social, April 17 at 3:30-5 PM
  - Halliday Lecture May 24: Michael Brown lecturing on his adventures with Pluto, Xena, etc.
  - Update on hiring of two Assistant Professors
  - Handbook for new faculty is in preparation (Max, Ramirez-Ruiz)
  - Astronomy has signed up for the full Scantron service.  
This means that you can now use Scantron for evaluations (new) as well as exams (old). Statistical analysis tools are available for both types of data.
  - A campus pandemic plan is underway. Sandy is seeking input on issues that the Astronomy Dept would have to face in the event that a deadly avian flu jumps to people. Example to contemplate: we are called upon to close the Department for an unknown but lengthy period (weeks) with ONE-DAY notice. What would we need to do?
- Report on the status of grad applications (Guhathakurta) (3:45-4:00)
- Project to upgrade Astronomy Research web pages (Faber) (4:00-4:10)
- Proposed plan for this spring
- Improving the intellectual health of the Astronomy postdoc community (Prochaska and Ramirez-Ruiz) (4:10-4:30)
  - Steps already taken
  - Further proposals needing discussion and faculty blessing
  - A short report will be circulated before the meeting
- Report of the Thesis Deadline Committee report: discussion and possible adoption (Faber, Smith, Strader) (4:30-4:50)
- See attached draft report